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THE TIMES

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Major keeps election options open

Ribble rout will force Heseltine's hand on poll tax

By Richard Ford and Douglas Broom

PLANS for a new property tax to replace the community charge are expected to be announced before Easter, as the government comes under increasing pressure from its backbenchers and councillors to act swiftly to prevent further electoral humiliation at the local polls in May.

John Major insisted yesterday that the Tories' heavy defeat in the by-election at Ribble Valley, one of their safest seats, would not "bounce" him into making a hasty decision on the future of the poll tax. But town hall leaders made clear that Michael Heseltine's review team must spell out its alternative in time to save them from defeat in the biggest local election for four years.

More than ten thousand seats on district councils, mostly Conservative-controlled, are up for election, along with another 827 metropolitan seats, dominated by Labour. A swing on the scale of the Ribble Valley result would be disastrous for the Conservatives if repeated on May 2, and would almost certainly scupper any hopes of a June general election.

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Mr Major has called ministers to a meeting next week as the government attempts to resolve a dispute within Whitehall over alternatives to the poll tax. Admitting that the tax was "clearly unpopular" in the by-election, Mr Major said he was clear which way the fundamental review being undertaken by Mr Heseltine would go.

Mr Heseltine has, however, been told by his advisers that replacing the community charge with a property tax could be as politically damaging as leaving it in place. A return to the rates could cost the average household £866. The new rates would be much higher than they were in their previous incarnation because of the cuts in government grants to local authorities and because the introduction of the uniform business rate means councils can no longer cushion the burden on individuals by increasing that on commercial concerns.

There is a growing right-wing lobby in favour of retaining the poll tax and many Conservatives are clinging to the principle that everyone should pay something towards local services.

While the cabinet and the party are divided on how to extricate themselves from the dilemma, an announcement on an alternative is expected before the Commons Easter recess begins on March 28. Mr Heseltine indicated yesterday that that announcement may cover only part of the conclusions of his review, and this has alarmed Conservative councillors who are pressing him to come up with full details. Chris Patten, the party chairman, promised the government would come up with something so that candidates in the May elections would have "something positive to say" on the doorsteps.

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said last night that the review of the community charge must produce an answer that was radical. "The idea that we can simply tinker with the community charge at around its present levels now clearly lacks conviction."

Mr Hurd dismissed the by-election result, in which the Liberal Democrats overturned a Tory majority of nearly 20,000 to win by 4,601, as a "flash in the pan", and Mr Major said it was simply a protest vote. "On this occasion the Liberals were the suitable dustbin for the protest vote and they won."

The defeat makes a June general election less likely, but Mr Major is expected to make his final decision on whether to go to the country in the summer on the evidence of the local polls in May. He insisted yesterday that the by-election would not affect his thinking. "It has made no difference whatsoever either way to the date of the general election," he said in Scotland, "not least becaue I have not determined what the date might be."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, hailed the 25 per cent swing that made Mike Carr party's 21st MP. He said the government would pay a very heavy price if it did not listen to the people who wanted rid of the poll tax. The result was even better than the Liberal Democrat victory in Eastbourne last October when they overturned a 17,000 Conservative majority.

Labour, who had talked of being in second place, saw its vote half to 4,356. John Cunningham, the party's campaigns coordinator, said the party had been the victim of a classic by-election squeeze.

Dr Cunningham said the government was in absolute disarray on the poll tax. 'A lot of Tories are still sticking to the principle of everyone having to pay regardless of whether they can afford to or whether they have any money."

Grief and honour: the Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Fusiliers, saluting the war dead yesterday as families weep at Brize Norton

Day of sorrow as war dead return

By Joe Joseph

THE grey clouds parted a few minutes before noon yesterday and let the sun streak the Oxfordshire countryside just as an RAF Hercules aircraft, carrying the coffins of 17 British soldiers killed in action in the Gulf, banked onto the military air strip at Brize Norton.

The faces of the waiting families remained grey. Some cried quietly. One mother waved a fist and yelled her son's name as the plane's roaring engines cut out.

The first coffin off the plane belonged to Corporal David Denbury of the Royal Corps of Engineers, the youngest to Conrad Cole of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, perhaps, the most tragic of the three privates from the Queen's Own Highlanders and the six Fusiliers who were felled by friendly fire, one of the euphemisms created to camouflage the awful blunders of war. The nine men, the oldest just aged 21, died when a US plane attacked their armoured personnel carrier in the thick of fighting.

The coffins, draped in a Union Jack and crowned by the soldiers' regimental berets and caps, were carried by pallbearers picked from their regiments and along a guard of honour drawn from the army, air force and navy.

The line of coffins was accompanied on its journey from the Hercules to the hearse by the St George's Band of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, chosen because it was the regiment that suffered the biggest toll among yesterday's returnees. The band's music sheet of slow laments included Elgar's *Nimrod* and Beethoven's *Funeral March*.

At 12.40pm, after the last of the waiting hearses had purred away to a government undertaker in Banbury for the Oxfordshire coroner to ink and stamp the military paperwork, the 100 or so relatives turned their back on the windy airfield tarmac and returned to the warmth of the terminal building, many of them huddled in each other's arms to lessen the grief and the cold.

Backtracking by US, page 7
Rafsanjani call, page 8

Thousands stranded as holiday firm collapses

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

BRITAIN'S travel industry was in turmoil last night after the collapse of the International Leisure Group left Air Europe's scheduled passengers stranded and tens of thousands of holidays in jeopardy.

Adminstrators appointed by the High Court to unravel the mess caused by the failure — with liabilities of £480 million — of the country's second biggest travel organisation now have only weeks to find a buyer prepared to take over the Gatwick-based airline and several tour operations headed by Intasun. If they fail, more than 7,000 employees of the companies which, until the start of the Gulf war had seemed poised to become the major pan-European travel group, could lose their jobs and Gatwick airport lose its biggest customer.

The decision to apply for the appointment of an administrator was taken in the early hours of yesterday morning after a ten-hour board meeting of Hudson Place Investments, ILG's parent company, had tried to put together a last-minute rescue package.

Lloyds Bank was prepared to provide some of the additional cash needed to keep the airline flying but wanted other investors to match their offer. The other investors were unable to do so. As a result, creditors in the early hours said they would seize some of Air Europe's aircraft.

Harry Goodman, ILG's chairman who over the past ten years had built the group into one of the dominant forces in the giant British travel industry, was not at the meeting. He is a London hospital with diabetes and was kept informed by telephone of the meeting's progress.

Last night Dan Air, a rival airline which itself faced bankruptcy four months ago, immediately applied to take over Air Europe'a scheduled route licences and recalled many staff to cope with the expected increased demand.

Other tour operators, backed by a £60 million bond lodged with the Association of British Travel Agents and a £25 million Air Travel Reserve Fund, said they would accept bookings which had been made with Intasun and other tour companies.

Tim Hayward, of KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock who was appointed administrator by the High Court, said last night: "The tour business appears to have been profitable and the airline has a modern fleet and a good reputation in the industry. Quite clearly at the present time the opportunities for the holiday business are not as rosy as they were a few years ago, but we will be seeking to sell these businesses as a going concern."

But there was not much time, he said. "We now need to take advantage of a relatively limited window of opportunity to sell," he said. "Air Europe is now suspended and while we hope we will have it flying again in very short order, it is a wasting asset and you can't stop flying for months and then start again."

Discussions are in progress with the Civil Aviation Authority about the length of time which may be granted to the administrators to sell the companies before they lose their licences and effectively become valueless. "Most of the aircraft are leased and it is therefore routes, slots and the organisation itself which we will be looking to sell," Mr Hayward said. "There is certainly no pot of gold in respect of the equity interest in the aircraft that we can tap."

ILG was badly affected both by the recession and the Gulf war, with the war alone resulting in up to £70 million in revenues disappearing as holiday-makers postponed their bookings and businessmen stopped flying to meetings. Mr Goodman had built up his travel empire on the basis that both would be complementary, with charter airline passengers providing an income for his scheduled airline to expand.

Passengers wait, page 4
Banks pull plug, page 23

Packaged fun in the sun: in a full year ILG's companies took almost 1.5 million people on charter flights

Farewell to unlamented Club 18-30

By Megan Tresidder

YOU can almost hear the sighs of relief across Europe. The financial difficulties of the ILG group may be causing misery for passengers stranded at Gatwick airport by their delayed Air Europe flights, but elsewhere prayers are being sent up in thanks for what may prove to be the end of the Club 18-30 holiday.

Memories of one such holiday still haunt me. I was sent undercover a few years ago to San Antonio in Ibiza, the biggest of the company's 50 worldwide resorts. I went to investigate for myself the mix of sun, sea, sex and *sangria*, offered by the world's biggest youth holiday company. Club 18-30 caters for 100,000 young Britons a year. It was an unforgettable experience.

My hotel room looked out on to a balcony on which the previous occupant had thrown up. We were told the rules on our first night. The rules were largely fashioned to cope with the problems caused by the malfunctions of young bodies exposed to large quantities of drink and sun. There was a system of fines: 1,000 pesetas for throwing up in the coach, 2,000 pesetas for doing it over

Continued on page 22, col 7

Shevardnadze's Moscow fears

From Martin Fletcher in Washington and Bruce Clark in Moscow

EDUARD Shevardnadze, the former Soviet foreign minister, has given a warning of a "shadow power" in Moscow operating beyond President Gorbachev's control and responsible for increasing repression in the Soviet Union.

In an emotional interview with the ABC television network on Thursday night, one of the few he has given since his abrupt resignation last December, Mr Shevardnadze insisted Mr Gorbachev "could never be a dictator" and had not been responsible for repression in the Baltic region in January or for moves such as putting military and KGB patrols back on the streets of Soviet cities to keep order and curbing press freedoms.

"The president doesn't always make all the decisions," he said. "That means there is some kind of shadow power here in the Soviet Union, a shadow authority, and we must now begin to analyse that, to investigate it."

He continued: "Sometimes decisions are made without any kind of authority from the president. It's bad, very bad."

Mr Shevardnadze's comments are the most authoritative confirmation yet of what the Bush administration has long suspected, that Mr Gorbachev no longer has complete control over the Soviet military and Communist hardliners who are beginning to operate independently. When criticising the turn of events in the Soviet Union,

Continued on page 22, col 1

A radical producer's lot is not a happy one

By Craig Seton

THE D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, standard-bearer of original Gilbert and Sullivan for more than a century, was yesterday unrepentant after opening at its new home with a gala performance of *The Gondoliers* that so offended some aficionados that they greeted the final curtain call with loud booing.

The occasion, to celebrate the company's move from London's Savoy to the Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham, was attended by a distinguished gathering including Tim Renton, the arts minister. But the company committed what amounted to heresy among purists by departing from the traditional presentation.

The enthusiasts, described as a vocal minority, were apparently upset that a company so bound by its links with Gilbert and Sullivan could have scenes in *The Gondoliers* that included the appearance of a corgi in a car and a fox with an uncanny resemblance to Basil Brush. At one stage the players sit and watch television, while the Venetian setting was described by one reviewer as a "yellow corrugated stage".

Those present insisted that the applause was far louder than the booing, but such obvious displeasure was almost unheard of in the long history of the D'Oyly Carte productions of William Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan. The company presented their work exclusively in its original form for more than a century until it went out of business in 1982 after the Arts Council refused it a subsidy. It was described in a council report as "being like a splendid old actress well past her prime, waddling away into the distance to a well-deserved and peaceful death".

The company was reformed in 1988 with sponsorship from British Midland Airways and a large bequest from the estate of the late Dame Bridget D'Oyly Carte, grand-daughter of the impresario. It signalled then that the old days and the former stylised productions at the Savoy, during which audiences had declined, were over. It also said that it would no longer perform Gilbert and Sullivan exclusively as it sought younger audiences at more modern performances.

Yesterday Ray Brown, the company's general manager, said of the Birmingham performance: "It made everybody think. A small minority felt it should have been a totally traditional performance and it was not." He agreed the performance puzzled some people, but added: "We are a new company and we have to look forward." Of those who booed, he said: "I am reliably informed they were disgruntled people who have previously had some connection with the company."

● Undoubtedly, one problem facing the new company is the expectation among diehard Gilbert and Sullivan fans that its productions will include the plummy diction, hammy acting and funny walks that reigned for decades (Our Arts Editor writes). In recent years, other companies have reinvigorated G&S, using rock singers, television comedians and slick Broadway productions.

Little sparkle, page 19

TODAY

Careless words cost lives?
Conor Gearty argues that confused definitions of terror and terrorism make the fight against subversion in Northern Ireland more difficult
SATURDAY REVIEW

Puffing Palin, Poles apart

Michael Palin comes in from a jog to talk of a walk (from Pole to Pole) and other modest adventures in the joke-free zone
SATURDAY REVIEW

A little night music
George Hill finds Westminster Abbey after hours gently lit and filled with choral harmonies
PAGE 14

A big week for Dessie
A close-up on the remarkable Desert Orchid ahead of next week's Gold Cup
PAGE 36

Enchanted coastline
Leslie Thomas watches high seas on jagged rocks in a Cornwall that keeps its secrets, and its charms, in and out of season
SATURDAY REVIEW

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The Equitable Life

Before you look to your future, look to our past.

Reform promise could not stem haemorrhage of voters

Ribble Valley protest vote gives Tories a severe jolt

By PETER DAVENPORT

IN THE aftermath of a remarkable by-election result, the main street of Clitheroe, the small Lancashire market town at the heart of the Ribble Valley constituency, marked the dividing line of political emotions yesterday. It may also be the road that leads to the demise of the poll tax.

On one side, in an upstairs room of the Conservative club, its heavy, velvet curtains still drawn against the daylight as if in mourning, Nigel Evans was trying to come to terms with his loss of a 19,500 majority in what had been regarded as the party's tenth safest seat.

Asked how he felt, Mr Evans replied: "I am a disappointed man. I would have preferred to have woken up at 7.30 this morning being the MP for Ribble Valley. That was not to be. The voters decided to use the occasion as a protest against the poll tax and that is what they did."

Across the street, on the first floor of the Swan and Royal pub, the mood was very different. Sunlight streamed in through the windows and a purple primula perched on a crisp white cloth on the table where Michael Carr, the Liberal Democrats' winner, and Paddy Ashdown, his party leader, bathed in the warm glow of victory.

"I would just remind you all," Mr Ashdown said, addressing a battery of photographers and television cameras, "that this very day is the third birthday of our party and I can think of no better present." Paul Jacobs, the agent who masterminded the Liberal Democrats' victorious Eastbourne campaign as well as that in Ribble Valley, said the victory party in the early hours had been all the sweeter for being celebrated with Conservative champagne.

When the Liberal Democrats, carousing at the Dog and Partridge pub a few doors along from the party's modest offices in Clitheroe, realised they were running short of bubbly, they bought a case from the local Conservative club where, in the hours after the declaration, it seemed to have no useful purpose. As if to rub in their success, the Liberals left the £3 change from the £150 proffered for the champagne as a tip.

Although everyone involved tried to put an interpretation most favourable to their party on the result, all agreed the poll tax had been the central issue. The government could not have wished for a worse place in which to put the poll tax to the public test.

Michael Heseltine's review and the promised benefits of the community charge reduction scheme were not enough to stem the haemorrhage of Tory voters that brought a rude end to John Major's first 100 days in office.

The constituency, stretching more than 20 miles from the Pennine Hills east of Clitheroe to the Fullwood suburbs of Preston, had been the seat of David Waddington, the home secretary, until he was made a peer and became leader of the Lords.

About 80 per cent of homes are privately owned and, especially in the rural areas around Clitheroe, many are small, terraced houses and cottages where the old rates bill could have been as low as £180 a year. For the next financial year, poll tax payers covered by Ribble Valley borough council will pay £410 a head, plus local parish precepts, a rise from £358 last year. In the Fullwood area poll tax will rise from £384 to £454.

Donald Parker and his wife Pat, both aged 57, went about their weekly shopping in Clitheroe yesterday knowing that they had played their part in a political upset. "We have always voted Tory in the past but this time we went for the Liberal Democrats mainly because of the poll tax," Mr Parker said.

A pensioner who declined to give her name said she and her husband would have to pay more than £800 poll tax next year. Their rates had been £380. "I do feel guilty voting for the Liberal Democrats because I have always supported the Tories," she said. "I think John Major is a good man for the job but when you and your husband are having to pay £800 poll tax when you previously paid £380 rates it makes you very angry."

Mr Evans, aged 33, helps to run the family grocery and newsagent's business in Swansea. Evans the News is the name of the shop: he had hoped the headlines he was making yesterday would have turned out differently. He hopes to stand in the general election in the constituency when he believes disenchanted Tory supporters will return to the party.

Mr Carr, aged 45, a teacher of children with special needs, was once a Tory local councillor representing Sabden, Lord Waddington's home. He joined the SDP in 1981 and later the Liberal Democrats. He intends to take his seat in Parliament on Tuesday. "We are here to stay," was his message to those saying the by-election was a one-off that would be overturned in the general election.

Mr Ashdown said the Ribble Valley electorate had spoken for the nation on the vexed issue of the poll tax. "If Mr Major does not remove the poll tax soon then he will pay a very high price indeed."

Leading article, page 11

RIBBLE VALLEY

M Carr (Lib-Dem)	22,377
N Evans (C)	17,776
J Farrington (Lab)	4,356
H Ingham (Green)	466
S Taylor (Lib)	133
D Brass (Ind C)	611
D Sutch (Off Rav L)	278
S B F Hughes (Rav L)	60
L St Clair (Corr)	72
L-D majority:	4,601
Turnout:	46,162 (72.2%)
Swing to Lib Dem:	24.7%

General election 1987: D Waddington (C) 30,136 (60.9%); M Carr (SDP Alt) 10,606 (21.4%); G Pope (Lab) 8,761 (17.7%). C Maj 19,528 (39.4%). Turnout: 62,844 (79.1%). Swing C to SDP Alt: 0.5%.

BARRY GREENWOOD

Winners and losers: Nigel Evans, above, the defeated Conservative party candidate in the Ribble Valley by-election, closes his eyes as he listens to the returning officer reading out the results of the poll. Michael Carr, below left, the winning candidate, and Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, celebrating the upset victory in Clitheroe

Pay review body is urged for teachers

By JOHN O'LEARY
HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

THE government will be forced to overcome its hostility to pay review bodies to achieve the wider political ends of its education policies, a head teachers' leader said yesterday.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, told the association's secondary conference in Great Malvern that the transfer of teachers' salaries to central government or a big increase in opting out would sound the death knell for the teachers' pay and conditions bill. "No government in its right mind would want to have direct negotiations with teachers, nor could it seriously contemplate 27,000 individual sets of salary negotiations in each and every school. That would be a recipe for chaos."

The obvious course, he said, was to establish a pay review body for teachers, which would recommend annual salary increases to be topped up at the discretion of governing bodies. He urged a 20 per cent rise in a classroom teacher's top pay, bringing it to £21,000.

Shell petrol up by 5.4p

Shell has announced a petrol price increase of 5.4p a gallon (1.2p a litre) from today. The rise takes the price of Shell's four-star to 204.1p a gallon (44.9p a litre) – the same price as Esso's four-star. Shell unleaded is going up by 5.4p to 190.5p a gallon (41.9p a litre), and the price of diesel is being cut by 5.4p a gallon, dropping the price to 183.7p a gallon (40.4p a litre). Texaco announced a petrol price increase from today of 5.5p per gallon (1.2p per litre). The price of diesel will fall by 5.5p per gallon.

Crash claims

Two officers of the Republic of Ireland police force have been suspended after allegations that, while off duty, they crashed a jeep towing a caravan into a British army checkpoint at Culmore, Co Londonderry. The RUC said that they drove on in spite of a soldier who had jumped on to the towbar firing shots in the air. The soldier got off at the next village and a passing motorist took him back to the North.

Cell death

A police enquiry was launched yesterday after a man facing allegations of drink-driving and other motoring offences was found dead in his cell. The body of the man, aged 26, was found by a police officer at Leeds Bridewell early yesterday. He had been arrested on the Leeds ring road, at Horsforth, at 11.20pm on Thursday in connection with the alleged offences.

Faulty lighters

Cigarette lighters stolen from a lorry in central London yesterday were not safe, police said yesterday. The 30 lighters, which had a design fault and were being returned to the makers in Japan, were among 2,900 stolen. Police said that the thieves might try to sell the them at market stalls and it was not possible to tell which were safe.

Back to work

Sir Peter Imbert, commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, is to return to work next month on his recovery from a heart bypass operation. The Home Office said yesterday that Sir John Dellow, the deputy commissioner, who stood in for Sir Peter, will retire in May and be succeeded by John Smith, a former Yard assistant commissioner

Speelman win

Jon Speelman the grandmaster from London, achieved his best result ever by beating former world champion Anatoly Karpov in the ninth round of an international chess tournament in Spain.

Tibetan Foundation

The telephone number for the Tibetan Foundation is given incorrectly on page 38 of The Saturday Review. The number is 071 379 0634.

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Review proposals urgently awaited

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CHRIS Patten, the Conservative party chairman, said that voters in the Ribble Valley by-election had made their views on local government finance "pretty plain". The government review of the community charge was on course and the government's proposals would be available before the May council elections so that candidates had "something positive to say" on the doorsteps.

Although Mr Patten did not disclose whether the outcome of the review would be announced before the Commons rises for the two-week Easter recess on March 28, the government has only three weeks to reach a decision before the campaign starts for the May 2 council elections. Tory MPs still differ widely on the solution but there is a growing consensus that Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, must announce the conclusions of his review before the campaign.

Mr Heseltine said in Bristol yesterday that he hoped to say something about the review by early April. "I would imagine that what we will be saying will be part of the conclusion of the review, but not the whole of it," he said.

The defeated Ribble Valley Tory candidate, Nigel Evans, admitted yesterday that the poll tax had been uppermost in the minds of everyone during the campaign.

Charles Kennedy, the Liberal Democrats' president, celebrating his party's success, argued that the Eastbourne by-election had secured the removal of Margaret Thatcher and that the Ribble Valley vote would kill the poll tax. Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, challenged John Major to pledge immediately its abolition.

The Liberal Democrat pair's stance was backed by many Tory MPs. One, Robert Adley, MP for Christchurch, said: "The damage done to the Conservative cause is not irreparable, but will depend largely on repealing this legislative disaster."

Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary told Tories at Oxford university yesterday that the government's two problems were the poll tax and the recession.

"There is no denying that we haven't local government finance right yet," he said. "We have agreed to rethink the present system and we are consulting widely."

The government would be on firmer ground to fight when the conclusions were produced, Mr Hurd said. "Any change in local government funding will, of course, always create losers," he said. "Taxes never make a government popular. The present review must produce an answer which is perceived to be radical, efficient and fair. The idea that we can simply tinker with the community charge at around its present levels now clearly lacks conviction."

John Cunningham, Labour's campaign co-ordinator, said that the government was in disarray on the fate of the poll tax. "Labour will get rid of the poll tax," he said. "We have opposed it from the outset. We will not fiddle about with it, we will not tinker with it."

Hattersley in attack on Major

By OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ROY HATTERSLEY, Labour's deputy leader, mounted a personal attack on John Major yesterday, blaming the prime minister for blocking rises in child benefit and pensions, creating the slump and using unemployment as part of his economic strategy at the Treasury.

He told the Scottish Labour Party's annual conference in Aberdeen that the substitution of Mr Major for Margaret Thatcher did not end the government's elective dictatorship. "The angry scowl may have been replaced by the silly grin, but we have the same old autocratic, intolerant Tory government," he said.

Mr Hattersley described Mr Major as the "image men's creation". Detailing Mr Major's record, he said "Mr Nice" was not created 101 days ago when he replaced "Mrs Nasty".

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*Planned Savings Survey of regular contribution, 10 year, with-profits personal pensions – June 1990

The Equitable
£15,937

Average
£13,917

Worst Company
£9,397

Personal pension fund from 10 year with-profits policy, annual contribution of £500 as published by Planned Savings June 1990. Figures refer to a self-employed man aged 65 retiring 2nd April 1990.

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Council Tories seek poll tax alternative to avoid May defeat

By Douglas Broom
Local Government Correspondent

TORY council leaders yesterday called on the government to detail its alternative to the poll tax quickly to save them from defeat in the May municipal elections.

A swing from the Conservatives on the scale which defeated the Conservative candidate in the Ribble Valley by-election would be disastrous for municipal Tories if repeated on May 2. Whatever the conclusions of the political pathologists about the reasons for the Ribble Valley defeat, senior Conservative councillors believe that the community charge will dominate the local council poll.

At stake on May 2 are 10,061 seats on 296 English and 37 Welsh district councils, most of which are controlled by the Tories, and a further 827 seats on metropolitan district councils, dominated by Labour. It is the largest local election for four years, with all the seats on 179 English and 30 Welsh districts at stake together with a third of the seats on the remaining district councils. The scale of the poll means that its outcome will have a big influence on the timing of the next general election. Tory council leaders are worried that many ideas being considered by Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, as part of his poll tax review are unworkable.

They are also alarmed at ministerial statements that the government's proposals for change will be announced only in outline form before the May election. Their fears have been increased by calls from right wing councillors and Commons backbenchers for the retention of the poll tax.

"There is no doubt that, on the doorsteps, the poll tax is a huge liability. People just do not accept that it is fair and we will lose seats hand over fist if we go into the May election trying to defend it," one senior councillor said.

Tony Hart, Conservative leader of Kent county council, accused Tory MPs of panicking over the poll tax and urged ministers to come forward with a simpler system similar to the rates. Mr Hart said that ministers accept that they would have to increase the percentage of local authority spending that was financed from central funds. Block grants now cover only 27 per cent of council spending.

"Over the last decade the government has been reducing grant and increasing the duties imposed on local government. They should stop the downward trend and agree to fund, say, 40 per cent of spending for five years. We need a system that gives stability to councils and local taxpayers," he said.

Roy Thomason, Conservative chairman of the Association of District Councils, said: "The result of the Ribble Valley by-election makes it all the more important that the review achieves the right result. There are so many of us facing election on May 2 that, as Conservatives, we must get it right or the consequences could be severe."

Nick Wilson, leader of the Tory group on the association, said :"The fact that the poll tax is a major issue is clear following Thursday night's debacle. We need a clear policy to put to the electorate."

Bill based on property could double payments

By Douglas Broom, Local Government Correspondent

MICHAEL Heseltine, the environment secretary, has been told by his advisers that replacing the community charge with a property tax could be as politically damaging as leaving it in place.

As he strives to meet the new deadline for publication of the outcome of his poll tax review before Easter, Mr Heseltine is being told that a property tax could produce rates bills more than double the worst poll tax demands.

A property tax is emerging as firm favourite to replace the poll tax, in spite of persistent sniping by the Tory right, who want to retain the poll tax principle that everyone must contribute to the cost of local services. Mr Heseltine has also indicated that he is attracted by the idea of basing valuations on the selling price of properties rather than a notional rental value, which formed the basis of valuations under the old rating system.

Although scrapping the poll tax would end a system in which even the poorest adult had to pay at least 20 per cent of the community charge it would add significantly to the burdens of those paying the new style rates. In place of 37 million community charge payers, 15 million householders in England would have to contribute the 38 per cent of local government income at present provided by poll tax. In the financial year starting next month poll tax will raise about £13 billion, which would translate into an average rates bill of £866 a household.

The main reasons for the new rates bills being much higher than their forebears are reductions in government grant to local authorities and the introduction of the uniform business rate. Because commercial rates are set centrally, councils can no longer use them to cushion the burden on individuals of spending rises and grant reductions.

The proportion of local authority spending met by government grant has fallen from 59 per cent in 1981 to 35 per cent this year. In the year starting in April, grant will account for only 27 per cent of spending. Whatever solution Mr Heseltine favours may be of little account in determining the final outcome of the review which is being overseen by a Cabinet committee chaired by the prime minister.

Touring Major shrugs off defeat

By Kerry Gill

NEITHER the bad weather that caused his aircraft to be diverted nor one of the biggest Conservative by-election defeats in years dampened the confidence of John Major on his second visit to Scotland as prime minister yesterday.

There seemed little cause to be happy as Mr Major was whisked from Glasgow to Edinburgh, where, at Redford barracks, he met families of soldiers in the Gulf and some of those injured in the war.

Even for the man whose party had just lost one of its safest seats, there is always someone, somewhere, worse off. Yesterday, that someone appeared to be Colour Sergeant John Jarvie, who was recovering from shrapnel wounds to his buttocks. Sgt Jarvie, aged 35, whose family spoke with Mr Major for several minutes, said that he had been somewhat embarrassed to tell the prime minister where he had been wounded. "He didn't ask to see them," he added.

Moments later, a wooden partition came crashing down. Everyone jumped at the bang – except, it seemed, the prime minister. It was, he said, rather like being in No 10 during last month's mortar attack – a clear sign that his sang-froid was still intact in spite of Ribble Valley.

The Liberal Democrats' victory was shrugged off at every question. Mr Major said there were clear signs that the Conservatives would retake the seat at the general election. He would not, however, say when that election might be, other than that the outcome of the by-election would not influence its timing.

Mr Major conceded that the by-election had been dominated by the community charge. "It has been difficult in Lancashire and some other places, and clearly it is unpopular there," he said. "I have no doubt that it is reflected in the result."

He said that he was fairly clear about the way the government's poll tax review was going. "When it is concluded we will make the announcement," he said. "I am not going to be bounced or pushed by the Ribble result."

Mr Major compared the Liberal Democrats to a dustbin. He said that many of the electorate in Ribble Valley had been looking for somewhere to dump their protest at the community charge.

Mr Major also denied that the defence ministry was determined to close the Rosyth naval base in Fife. The Labour party has said that the base has been earmarked for closure in spite of a continuing defence ministry review into naval bases.

The prime minister later addressed the National Farmers' Union of Scotland annual conference in Dunblane, Perthshire. He promised that he would fight for British farmers during forthcoming talks about changes to the EC common agricultural policy.

Later, speaking in Glasgow, Mr Major promised to revive Tory fortunes in Scotland by winning a majority of its 72 parliamentary seats. Conservative ambitions should not be underestimated, he said. "For a long time, Labour have rather arrogantly assumed Scotland is theirs; they will soon begin to find out that this is not the case," he said. "I will not be remotely satisfied over the next few years until we have a majority of seats in Scotland."

Mr Major gave warning that economic improvement in Scotland over the past decade could be damaged by the establishment of a tax-raising Scottish assembly, another sign that he remains as opposed to devolution as was Margaret Thatcher.

DAVID HUTCHISON

Major at the barracks: the prime minister with army families in Edinburgh

Pressure grows for ministers to abolish charge

Political expediency requires that there be more gainers than losers, writes Tony Travers

POLITICS will determine the outcome of Michael Heseltine's review of the community charge. A fortnight ago, the near or total abolition of the poll tax appeared a certainty. More recently, things were less sure. The Ribble Valley by-election has now increased pressure on ministers to abolish the poll tax.

The very process of "floating" the possible reintroduction of a property tax has led to a surge of support for the community charge, most notably at the recent Conservative party local government conference. Nicholas Ridley, who has a consistent line on such matters, has re-emphasised the political dangers of a return to the rates.

Mr Ridley has a point. First, about nine million people gained, many of them substantially, under the community charge. Any cross-section of the public will contain numbers of people, notably single pensioners, for whom the community charge was a godsend. Second, the disruption caused by the move from one tax to another is relatively unpopular. Losers react while gainers, apparently, do not.

Such a political reaction has created the driving force to reform the community charge. Ministers will want to ensure that whatever tax or taxes replace the present arrangements, the public will be grateful. Ideally, Tory MPs want a reform where no one loses. The impact of new tax arrangements on local government is, without doubt, of secondary importance.

As long as local taxation continues to raise the £13 billion or so collected by the community charge, it is inevitable that the move to a new tax will produce millions of gainers and losers. In political terms, the best solution for the government would keep the number of losers to a minimum, while ensuring that those who did lose were not marginal voters. Gainers should also be politically marginal. When the government introduced the community charge, it either did not do an analysis to reveal the scope and nature of losers or did such an analysis and ignored it. Because the government's favoured new tax has not yet been announced, it is not possible to predict the likely impact of the next reform.

However, it is possible, on the basis of government figures, to give a clear indication of how a reintroduced property tax might affect different households. Last April the environment department published figures of how a domestic rating system based on capital values might affect households. Table 1 shows, for properties with different values, the 1990-1 capital value rate bill. Average property prices and the local community charge are also shown.

These figures are illustrative only. However, the results are plausible. Higher value homes would pay big local tax bills and vice versa. A capital value rate would take us back to a slightly exaggerated version of the old system based on rental value. To make the results clearer, Table 2 exemplifies the impact of the move to a capital value rate. In each case, the value of the home is typical for the kind of property chosen. Thus, for a substantial house in Ealing, west London, there would be a large increase in local tax. The famous "single pensioner" for whom the poll tax was such a boon would, almost inevitably, suffer in a move back to a property tax. However, there would also be many gainers.

The fact that a reform of local taxation will lead to losses for some people is no reason for not moving to a better system. If we are to have proper local government, a local tax is essential. The only way out for the government would be to push billions of pounds into the grant system to hold down tax bills in the first year of the new system. Another £3 or £4 billion paid out to ensure that most people were "gainers" might just be enough.

Tony Travers is director of research, Greater London Group, London School of Economics and Political Science

IMPACT OF CAPITAL VALUE BASED DOMESTIC RATES, 1990-91

	Property value of £30,000	£50,000	£80,000	£120,000	Average property price (£)	Average community charge (£)
Birmingham	301	501	802	1,203	51,582	406
Bristol	445	741	1,186	1,778	83,004	425
Cambridge	313	521	834	1,251	79,791	428
Camden	439	732	1,171	1,756	121,802	500
Carlisle	358	593	949	1,424	63,786	367
Derby	385	642	1,027	1,541	47,885	399
Ealing	340	567	907	1,361	84,506	435
Hull	352	586	938	1,407	39,522	307
Manchester	283	472	755	1,133	38,951	425
Newcastle	341	568	909	1,363	44,898	391
Shrewsbury	286	476	762	1,143	58,827	333
Woking	273	455	728	1,092	95,944	359

Examples of impact of move from community charge to capital-value rating

1. **Couple, 3 bedroom house (value £230,000), Ealing**
   Community Charge: £870
   Rates: £2,599 Lose: £1,729
2. **Pensioner, semi-detached house (value £70,000), Birmingham**
   Community Charge: £406
   Rates: £700 Lose: £294
3. **Four adults, council house (value £30,000), Derby**
   Community Charge: £1,596
   Rates: £384 Gain: £1,212
4. **Couple, terraced house (value £35,000), Carlisle**
   Community Charge: £734
   Rates: £416 Gain: £318

COMMUNITY CHARGE LEVELS PLANNED OR SET BY COUNCILS

	Cur (£)	New (£)
London boroughs		
Barking (Lab)	280	310
Barnet (Con)	338	387
Bexley (Con)	280	342
Brent (NOC)	470	470
Bromley (Con)	283	330
Camden (Lab)	500	440
City (Ind)	288	315
Croydon (Con)	287	320
Ealing (Con)	435	365
Enfield (Con)	329	388
Greenwich (Lab)	350	398
Hackney (Lab)	499	482
Hammersmith (Lab)	325	387
Haringey (Lab)	508	559
Harrow (Con)	322	380
Havering (Lab)	350	369
Hillingdon (Con)	299	355
Hounslow (Lab)	396	425
Islington (Lab)	498	518
Kensington (Con)	375	325
Kingston (NOC)	344	379
Lambeth (Lab)	520	600
Lewisham (Lab)	297	308
Merton (Lab)	279	409
Newham (Lab)	449	449
Redbridge (Con)	290	395
Richmond (SLD)	395	419
Southwark (Lab)	329	329
Sutton (SLD)	381	396
Tower Hamlets (SLD)	297	287
Waltham Forest (Lab)	438	436
Wandsworth (Con)	148	136
Westminster (Con)	195	176
Metropolitan districts		
Barnsley (Lab)	270	322
Birmingham (Lab)	406	406
Bolton (Lab)	344	405
Bradford (Lab)	278	363
Bury (Lab)	373	435
Calderdale (Lab)	296	317
Coventry (Lab)	394	434
Doncaster (Lab)	334	340
Dudley (Lab)	387	415
Gateshead (Lab)	320	366
Kirklees (Lab)	290	380
Knowsley (Lab)	365	425
Leeds (Lab)	351	412
Liverpool (Lab)	449	477
Manchester (Lab)	425	431
Newcastle (Lab)	390	456
North Tyneside (Lab)	356	424
Oldham (Lab)	365	409
Rochdale (Lab)	335	389
Rotherham (Lab)	295	389
St Helens (Lab)	410	401
Salford (Lab)	396	440
Sandwell (Lab)	423	459
Sefton (NOC)	373	422
Sheffield (Lab)	355	360
Solihull (Con)	389	392
South Tyneside (Lab)	309	360
Stockport (SLD)	389	464
Sunderland (Lab)	310	355
Tameside (Lab)	349	410
Trafford (Con)	298	345
Wakefield (Lab)	305	353
Walsall (Lab)	425	475
Wigan (Lab)	347	407
Wirral (Lab)	341	476
Wolverhampton (Lab)	418	415

	Cur (£)	New (£)
Shire districts		
Adur (SLD)	349	405
Allerdale (Lab)	285	351
Alnwick (Lab)	347	397
Arun (Con)	314	359
Ashfield (Lab)	320	385
Ashford (Con)	297	316
Amber Valley (Con)	398	351
Aylesbury Vale (Con)	347	390
Babergh (Con)	330	365
Barrow (Lab)	328	416
Basildon (Lab)	443	495
Basingstoke (Con)	319	326
Bassetlaw (Lab)	371	436
Bath (Con)	348	384
Berwick (NOC)	321	358
Beverley (Con)	373	426
Blackburn (Lab)	365	427
Blackpool (Con)	384	434
Blyth Valley (Lab)	415	439
Bolsover (Lab)	296	352
Boothferry (Con)	290	345
Boston (Con)	280	355
Bournemouth (Con)	320	360
Bracknell (Con)	380	369
Braintree (Con)	343	352
Brentwood (Con)	375	369
Breckland (Con)	304	374
Bridgnorth (Ind)	307	350
Brighton (Lab)	372	395
Bristol (Lab)	425	500
Broadland (Con)	319	368
Bromsgrove (Con)	337	360
Broxbourne (Con)	361	380
Broxtowe (Con)	374	403
Burnley (Lab)	299	349
Cambridge (Lab)	428	469
Cannock Chase (Lab)	354	409
Canterbury (Con)	299	334
Caradon (Ind)	315	375
Carlisle (Lab)	365	438
Carrick (SLD)	323	390
Castle Morpeth (NOC)	432	444
Castle Point (Con)	377	355
Charnwood (Con)	372	397
Chelmsford (SLD)	392	363
Cheltenham (NOC)	364	415
Chester (NOC)	400	449
Chesterfield (Lab)	357	403
Chester-l-St (Lab)	342	409
Cherwell (Con)	362	386
Chichester (Con)	308	310
Chiltern (Con)	390	383
Chorley (Lab)	360	431
Christchurch (Con)	339	356
Cleethorpes (SLD)	364	430
Corby (Lab)	350	390
Colchester (SLD)	332	348
Congleton (SLD)	397	433
Copeland (Lab)	326	369
Cotswold (Con)	380	385
Craven (NOC)	249	304
Crawley (Lab)	345	375
Crewe (Lab)	414	452
Dacorum (Con)	398	365
Darlington (Lab)	356	415
Dartford (Con)	324	340
Daventry (Con)	353	380
Derby (Con)	399	410
Derby Dales (Con)	374	418
Derwentside (Lab)	332	416
Dover (Con)	295	329
Durham (Lab)	353	421

	Cur (£)	New (£)
Easington (Lab)	256	354
Eastbourne (NOC)	385	414
East Cambs (Ind)	303	355
East Devon (Con)	340	382
East Dorset (Con)	253	386
East Hants (Con)	368	363
East Herts (Con)	370	360
Eastleigh (SLD)	368	385
East Lindsey (Ind)	272	359
East Northants (Con)	294	358
East Staffs (NOC)	334	384
East Yorks (Ind)	326	397
Eden (Ind)	295	355
Ellesmere Port (Lab)	406	449
Elmbridge (Con)	448	470
Epping Forest (Con)	372	368
Epsom (RES)	452	468
Erewash (Con)	363	414
Exeter (Lab)	344	379
Fareham (Con)	360	365
Fenland (Con)	291	372
Forest Heath (Con)	363	357
Forest of Dean (Lab)	335	404
Fylde (Con)	387	407
Gedling (Con)	369	405
Gillingham (Con)	285	305
Gloucester (Lab)	353	407
Gosport (NOC)	340	386
Gravesham (Con)	293	293
Great Grimsby (Lab)	384	431
Great Yarmouth (Lab)	325	389
Guildford (Con)	397	386
Halton (Lab)	395	465
Hambleton (NOC)	308	330
Harborough (Con)	367	405
Harlow (Lab)	425	459
Harrogate (SLD)	360	395
Hart (Con)	394	365
Hartlepool (Lab)	385	437
Hastings (NOC)	380	414
Havant (Con)	338	369
Hereford (SLD)	289	351
Hertsmere (Con)	413	366
High Peak (Con)	386	399
Hinckley (Con)	346	431
Holderness (Ind)	359	422
Horsham (Con)	297	338
Hove (Con)	330	337
Hull (Lab)	307	370
Huntingdon (Con)	298	338
Hyndburn (Lab)	315	411
Ipswich (Lab)	440	464
Kennet (Con)	297	342
Kerrier (SLD)	326	385
Kettering (Con)	323	369
Kings Lynn (Con)	281	344
Kingswood (Con)	357	412
Lancaster (NOC)	385	419
Langbaurgh (NOC)	420	478
Leicester (Lab)	405	459
Leominster (Ind)	276	341
Lewes (Con)	351	385
Lichfield (Con)	335	376
Lincoln (Lab)	284	364
Luton (Con)	402	399
Macclesfield (Con)	428	420
Maidstone (SLD)	327	358
Maldon (Con)	339	345
Malvern Hills (Ind)	331	379
Mansfield (Lab)	378	435
Medina (Con)	342	335
Melton (Con)	338	390
Mendip (NOC)	356	414

	Cur (£)	New (£)
Mid Beds (Con)	384	405
Middlesbrough (Lab)	429	457
Mid Devon (Ind)	335	394
Mid Suffolk (Con)	324	370
Mid Sussex (Con)	317	345
Milton Keynes (Lab)	398	455
Mole Valley (NOC)	387	394
Newark (Con)	398	432
Newbury (Con)	397	390
N'castle-u-Lyme (Lab)	349	408
New Forest (Con)	317	339
Northampton (Con)	349	368
Northavon (Con)	385	410
North Beds (Con)	397	403
N Cornwall (Ind)	300	343
North Devon (NOC)	314	363
North Dorset (Ind)	285	339
NE Derbys (Lab)	364	409
North Herts (Con)	397	367
N Kesteven (NOC)	282	345
North Norfolk (Con)	284	324
N Shropshire (Ind)	317	367
North Warks (Lab)	385	459
NW Leics (Lab)	366	407
North Wilts (Con)	323	379
Norwich (Lab)	365	433
Nottingham (Lab)	390	448
Nuneaton (Lab)	386	476
Oadby (Con)	370	427
Oswestry (Ind)	329	399
Oxford (Lab)	489	550
Pendle (SLD)	299	358
Penwith (Con)	312	362
Peterborough (Lab)	360	406
Plymouth (Con)	350	380
Poole (Con)	325	340
Preston (Lab)	384	454
Portsmouth (Con)	308	372
Purbeck (Con)	284	317
Reading (Lab)	447	474
Redditch (Lab)	345	401
Reigate (Con)	445	412
Restormel (SLD)	318	365
Ribble Valley (Con)	355	413
Richmondshire (Ind)	272	326
Rochester (Con)	248	190
Rochford (NOC)	383	368
Rossendale (Lab)	337	400
Rother (Con)	352	372
Runnymede (Con)	295	338
Rushcliffe (Con)	393	403
Rugby (Con)	346	427
Rushmoor (Con)	325	370
Rutland (Ind)	370	384
Ryedale (Con)	283	341
St Albans (Con)	394	380
St Edmunds (Con)	317	379
Salisbury (Con)	305	349
Scarborough (Con)	274	321
Sedgefield (Lab)	274	361
Sedgemoor (Con)	349	385
Selby (Con)	286	345
Sevenoaks (Con)	304	330
Shepway (NOC)	342	343
Southampton (Lab)	317	395
Shrewsbury (Lab)	324	396
Slough (Lab)	359	330
South Beds (Con)	401	405
South Bucks (Con)	393	361
South Cambs (Ind)	328	344
South Hams (Con)	334	380
S Hereford (Ind)	273	321
Southend (Con)	378	348

	Cur (£)	New (£)
S Kesteven (Con)	278	340
South Lakeland (Con)	345	413
South Norfolk (Con)	313	370
South Oxon (Con)	471	464
South Ribble (Con)	366	426
S Shropshire (Ind)	305	372
South Staffs (Con)	325	339
South Somerset (SLD)	362	411
South Wight (Con)	370	377
Spelthorne (Con)	368	387
Stafford (Con)	338	376
Staffs Moors (Con)	323	377
Stockton (Lab)	428	452
Stoke-o-Trent (Lab)	313	412
Stratford (Con)	374	414
Stroud (NOC)	372	445
Suffolk Coast (Con)	389	370
Swale (Con)	299	334
Tandridge (SLD)	371	413
Taunton Deane (Con)	349	380
Teignbridge (Ind)	364	405
Tendring (Con)	348	346
Test Valley (Con)	325	320
Tewkesbury (Con)	355	385
Thanet (Con)	298	314
Three Rivers (Con)	419	415
Thurrock (Lab)	414	406
Tonbridge (Con)	311	348
Torbay (SLD)	395	380
Torridge (Ind)	281	346
Uttlesford (Con)	348	339
Wansbeck (Lab)	348	395
Wansdyke (Con)	361	418
Warwick (Con)	386	408
Watford (Lab)	403	434
Waveney (Lab)	349	392
Waverley (Con)	405	396
Wealden (Con)	348	386
Wear Valley (Lab)	308	356
Wellingborough (Con)	288	269
Welwyn (Lab)	434	448
West Devon (Ind)	333	378
West Dorset (Ind)	313	365
West Lancs (NOC)	378	399
West Lindsey (SLD)	286	350
West Oxon (Ind)	412	380
West Somerset (SLD)	334	380
Weymouth (NOC)	336	380
White Horse (Con)	403	405
Winchester (Con)	359	352
Windsor (Con)	449	427
Woking (Con)	359	399
Wokingham (Con)	426	403
Woodspring (Con)	395	444
Worcester (Lab)	339	397
Worthing (Con)	298	335
Wychavon (Con)	315	358
Wycombe (Con)	400	406
Wyre Forest (Lab)	340	393
Welsh districts		
Aberconwy (SLD)	220	258
Brecknock (Ind)	190	243
Cardiff (Lab)	253	277
Glyndwr (Ind)	280	294
Islwyn (Lab)	218	262
Lliw Valley (Lab)	241	248
Monmouth (Con)	215	248
Newport (Lab)	238	275
Ogwr (Lab)	223	255
Port Talbot (Lab)	248	258
Preseli (Ind)	195	228
Rhondda (Lab)	216	252
Swansea (Lab)	264	275

Key: Con=Conservative; Ind=Independent; Lab=Labour; NOC=No Overall Control; Ras=Ratepayers Assoc.; SLD=Liberal Democrat. Figures rounded to the nearest pound and exclude parish precepts. Sources: surveys by: The Times; Municipal Journal; Local Government Chronicle; Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

The making of John Major

"Once the Heseltine score of 152 votes had registered on the Tuesday, leaving Mrs Thatcher four votes short of an outright win on the first ballot, ordinary business in Whitehall and Westminster broke down. One unexcitable witness spoke of "cabinet ministers abandoning their

departments, followed by their senior civil servants". Robert Hayward, the MP for Kingswood, says that the Conservative party from Tuesday evening until the announcement of Thatcher's climbdown on Thursday morning "could fairly be called a bunch of demented ferrets".

Edward Pearce, in The Sunday Times tomorrow

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QUEEN ELIZABETH 2

A maverick for whom the bubble could only get bigger

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

TO MANY of his less flamboyant rivals in the travel industry, Harry Goodman was the maverick whose approach to business contained the elements of disaster. To friends and confidants, however, he was a big-hearted and dynamic leader, never letting bureaucracy stifle his instinct for a good deal.

His goal was to smash the European state-owned giants' monopoly of intra-European air services by setting up a network of airlines registered throughout the Continent. They would offer cheaper fares and a high level of service that would gain popular support until they could capitalise on the liberalisation of air services in Europe promised from the end of next year.

In the meantime, he bought the latest equipment and used it intensively. He believed that by flying scheduled operations during the day and charter flights at night, the aircraft, with their high fuel efficiency, would easily make a profit. "Some critics say we have expanded too fast," Mr Goodman said two years ago as he ordered dozens more aircraft. "I have to agree that every carrier which has pitched for rapid growth has come a cropper and gone bust."

However, he argued that those others had "turned their backs on their traditional bedrock of passenger support — charters". He was determined that every European joint venture involved partners with access to many leisure clients, as his airline did through its sister company, Intasun.

In the end, this strategy led to Air Europe's collapse. When Iraq invaded Kuwait, holiday bookings stopped overnight. International Leisure Group (ILG) in the seven months since has lost 400,000 bookings worth an estimated £24 million in deposits. With scheduled sales also down by half, the cash flow dried up, while loan payments mounted.

"We have been pulled down by the general mess," Rod Lynch, Air Europe's managing director, said yesterday. "We needed recapitalisation and we came to grief because of a short-term problem. Once that has been resolved, few would be prepared to gamble against Harry Goodman making some sort of a comeback."

Harry Goodman, aged 51, was raised in east London and left school at 15 with no O-levels but a love of the travel industry. He was rejected by Thomas Cook, but by the age of 22 had learnt enough from working on the fringes of the industry to become his own master. With capital of £500, he and friends bought a small travel agency, Sidcup Travel, in Kent. He changed the name to Sunair and branched out as a tour operator. By 1971, he sold his interests in the company for £70,000 and took a two-year sabbatical in Spain and Greece where he learnt what British tourists expected from their package holidays. On his return, he bought Intasun for £25,000, sold its travel agency element and developed the package tour side.

Only one year later, the fledgling company heard rumours of the imminent collapse of Clarkson's, and Goodman hired a fleet of private jets and had them in the air with negotiating teams on board within 40 minutes of the announcement of Clarkson's collapse. Mediterranean hoteliers afraid of being left with empty beds, sold them to Intasun at a big discount. Intasun picked up 50,000 holidays and made £30,000 profit. In 1982, Goodman was with Sir Freddie Laker's on the night his company collapsed. Although Goodman offered his old friend sympathy and advice, his main interest was in picking up Laker clients. That summer, Intasun sold more than 500,000 holidays for the first time.

Goodman worked ceaselessly, losing two marriages as a result. He became a multi-millionaire, and gave unstintingly to charity, raising more than £1.5 million for underprivileged children.

His business continued to expand as tour operators such as Club 18-30, Global, Lancaster and Ski-Scene were added to the group. It was the big numbers of passengers those tour operators could guarantee that convinced him to expand Air Europe. The airline was boosted when BCal was sold to British Airways allowing Air Europe to apply for, and get, many of BCal's licences into Europe and it quickly became the biggest force in scheduled and passenger services at Gatwick.

In building up those services, Goodman invested £20 million between 1987 and 1989, and was so full of confidence that in 1987 he and his 25 directors and senior managers paid £156 million to regain control of the company, which he had earlier floated on the Stock Exchange.

In 1989, he announced plans to spend more than £1.65 billion on new jets. The bubble could, it was said, only get larger as demand for aircraft increased sending the value of his purchases soaring even before they were built. If trouble struck, he could always sell them and make a handsome profit. The Gulf war, however, hit travel, and second-hand aircraft values fell. ILG had to ask Lloyds Bank, its principal backer, for help to stay afloat. Lloyds agreed, provided more cash was raised by other investors, and Goodman stepped down as chief executive, although remaining chairman.

Goodman had been feeling ill and was then involved in a car crash, which cracked his ribs. A check-up indicated chronic diabetes and he was taken to hospital. For much of the past few days, while his empire was disintegrating, Goodman was confined to a hospital bed, still trying to piece together a rescue package so that his company could have taken advantage of the travel boom that the industry is convinced is just around the corner.

Passengers have to sit and wait or pay again

By PETER VICTOR

HUNDREDS of travellers were left angry and frustrated yesterday by the realisation that they had almost no hope of flying to their holiday destinations.

At the Intasun travel desk at Gatwick, passengers left stranded by the collapse of Air Europe sat or lay on the ground waiting for news while the phone lines enjoyed constant attention. At Birmingham airport, some tourists had boarded their flight only to be told that it would not be allowed to take off.

All would-be passengers at Gatwick were handed letters from the airline saying that services had been suspended and that an application had been made to the High Court for the appointment of an administrator. Regardless of the outcome, however, no one would be flying unless they could get a standby ticket from another airline and could afford to pay for it.

Suzanne Holcombe, a 19-year-old student from Barnstaple, Devon, said: "We arrived at five o'clock and the only thing we have been told is that Air Europe has ceased trading. I can't believe the way we have been treated — it's disgusting."

Eileen Mitchell, aged 54, had been due to visit her daugher in Italy for Mothers' Day. She arrived at 8.30am to find that her 10am flight to Rome had been cancelled. "I feel sick," she said. "It's really bad. We arrived here and there was nothing, no-one to tell us what to do or what was going on."

One man sat on his luggage, whimsically strumming "Ticket to Ride" on his guitar. Few passengers were so sanguine. Julia Mann, aged 22, of Bromley, southeast London, who had booked a week's holiday in The Gambia, said: "We have just been told to hang around the airport and maybe the other airlines will get a flight together for us."

Sami Jones, 22, from Poole, Dorset, had booked a weekend trip to Rome for herself and her mother, Anita. Miss Jones said: "We came to check in and they said: 'You are not going anywhere'." Later, she broke down and wept with disappointment.

At Birmingham airport, more than 200 passengers were left without flights. Some tourists bound for Malaga had boarded one flight and were waiting for the aircraft to take off when it was grounded by an order from the control tower. In Majorca, 60 to 90 Britons were stranded.

Malcolm Deller, Air Europe's airport manager at Gatwick, said that he had been told of the collapse at 4.45am. "Staff were devastated," he said. "The company issued a statement asking us to deal with the situation as professionally as we can."

● The collapse of Air Europe could not have come at a worse time for Gatwick airport. Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary, announced this week that Heathrow would be thrown open to any airline that wanted to fly from there — a move that immediately led to a rush of applications from airlines based at Gatwick, raising fears that it could become little more than a "bucket and spade" charter base.

British Airways yesterday announced further cuts in its Gatwick operation by withdrawing services to Stockholm, Barcelona, Karachi, and Banjul, and cutting its services to Bermuda. BA made it clear that it has no intention of picking up any Air Europe services that it was forced to hand over after its takeover of British Caledonian. The government then assumed that it was creating competition by licencing Air Europe to fly alongside BA.

Further reductions are expected in services from Gatwick and the future of Stansted, which next week will have its new terminal opened by the Queen, is looking increasingly uncertain.

Warning to stranded business travellers

By BILL FROST

BUSINESS travellers stranded with useless Air Europe tickets were yesterday told not to rebook with other carriers for the time being.

David Whittaker, chairman of the Guild of Business Travel Agents, said: "Air Europe staff are still at their desks. Our advice to passengers is to approach them and ask for a seat with another airline. If travellers act in haste and get tickets with a second carrier there is no guarantee of a refund." Holders of scheduled airline tickets, unlike those who have booked package tours, are not indemnified against the collapse of a carrier.

Among those approached by Air Europe to ferry business travellers home last night were British Airways and KLM. Dan Air and GB Airways also stepped in to help.

Thomas Cook said yesterday that customers due to travel on Air Europe flights this weekend were protected by the company's "Money Back Guarantee" scheme. Passengers could either have a full refund or be booked on alternative flights.

Thomson, the market leader, said it had been carrying stranded holidaymakers out of Gatwick and a number of regional airports to their destinations yesterday. The Owners Abroad group of tour operators said it was arranging alternative flights for its passengers due to fly Air Europe. The group had about 1,000 people booked on flights with the airline over the weekend, mostly on ski holidays to Geneva and Grenoble.

● The removal of the ILG tour operators could provide a welcome boost to rivals, who had been facing a big drop in passenger bookings because of the recession and the Gulf war (Harvey Elliott writes). Airlines, especially those operating from Gatwick, which had big falls in scheduled passenger numbers, will now expect to pick up most of the three million passengers who would otherwise have been flown by Air Europe.

Happier days: Goodman in 1982 when Intasun sold over 500,000 holidays for the first time. "Some critics say we have expanded too fast," he said

End sealed for sun, sand and chips industry

By RAY CLANCY

THE collapse of Harry Goodman's ILG sounds a death knell for the package holiday industry. Goodman, with his "pile it high, sell it cheap" philosophy, helped to create a monster.

The lager lout, the typhoid on the beaches scare, the unfinished-hotel fraud are the direct product of an unlovely industry that has for decades sold the idea of "sunny Spain" or "gorgeous Greece" without the inconvenience of meeting foreigners. Watneys Red Barrel, fish and chips and the worst British prejudices have been exported to the Costas uncontaminated by the benefits of travel. Mr Goodman's Club 18-30 holidays sum up the travel industry's judgment of the aspirations of its customers: Blackpool with sun.

The Henley Centre's recent conclusion to its *Leisure Futures* report is that to continue to offer "a holiday in Benidorm cheek by jowl with millions of other Brits" will spell doom for the £3.6 billion a year package tour industry. The sun and sand package, invented by the British 40 years ago on the back of a surplus of wartime Dakota aircraft, reached its apogee in the 1980s when 12.5 million Britons flocked to the beaches of Benidorm, Malaga and Corfu. At first they were escaping post-war rationing and willing to accept brutal concrete buildings, poor service and overcrowding in substandard hotels. The industry had found its short-sighted formula.

In the early 1970s between two and three million people headed to the beaches of the Mediterranean on a package tour each summer. They stayed in cheap, purpose-built hotels and apartments and fought for every inch of beach.

The bus driver, the milkman and the car assembly worker could take their families to Spain at an affordable price. In 1975 a family of four could enjoy a fortnight in Spain for £300 all in. By 1978 4.5 million took package holidays. That grew to 8.5 million in 1985, 10.6 million in 1986 and reached 12.5 million in 1989.

In the 1980s tour operators like Harry Goodman thought they knew what their customers wanted: a cheap fortnight near the beach, a commodity holiday where a deep tan was the ultimate souvenir. The package bubble burst when increasingly affluent holidaymakers began to demand more comforts, more space, more excitement. The tour operators responded by offering more exotic destinations, and even "theme evenings" where, local cuisine could be sampled. It was too little, too late.

By popularising foreign travel the Intasuns had made it mundane. For most Britons the first experience of travelling abroad was a package holiday. But a new generation learnt that schoolboy French and schoolgirl Spanish actually worked. Two beers, a meal or a hotel room could be ordered without much difficulty. Suddenly they were free of the package operators' thrall.

The biggest blow came from scare stories in the tabloids. The headline "Salou killed my husband" above a report of a typhoid outbreak in a Spanish resort in 1989 was typical. Although it proved untrue, the resort's image was damaged forever. Mediterranean magic was replaced by lager louts and violence.

Benidorm spent millions of pounds on cleaning up its image. But Thomson cut the number of holidays it was offering and the new Benidorm has never really emerged.

There has been the "killer seaweed" on the Adriatic, the unfinished hotels in Turkey, the swimming pools that are not next to the apartment blocks, and the final straw perhaps — the delays at airports caused by strike action by air traffic controllers in France and Spain.

The package holiday industry of the future will give an individual itinerary to suit every member of the family while retaining the trouble-free travelling arrangements that make mass market package holidays so easy.

Back to the mini and psychedelia

By LIZ SMITH
FASHION EDITOR

THE King's Road is once more the focus for fashion enthusiasts. The London Designer Show, British fashion's latest showcase, is installed in the Duke of York's barracks in Chelsea. More than 130 exhibitors have opened their order books to international retailers for four days there as *top* designers parade their collections for autumn.

The mini dresses and psychedelic colours of the Sixties are back. Caroline Charles, the first to show yesterday, revived the short pinafore tunic worn over skinny sweater and leggings. Her short sack dresses in crisp dogtooth checks are worn under swing coats in vibrant orange, acid green and brown.

Review, page 24

Model wear: strappy mini dress by Caroline Charles at the London Designer Show in Chelsea

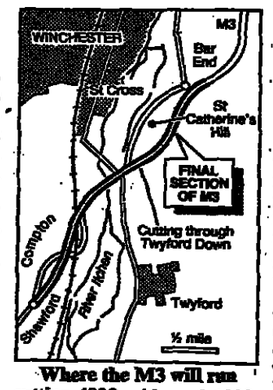
Private toll tunnel scheme could save Twyford Down

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

MALCOLM Rifkind, the secretary of state for transport, is considering a plan for a privately funded toll tunnel that would save Twyford Down in Hampshire from destruction by the M3.

The scheme would be a new departure in making the market work for the environment, and could extend popular capitalism by attracting small investors. The idea has come from the Twyford Down Association, the Winchester-based campaign group fighting to save the down, which is one of the most protected landscapes in England.

Under present plans, announced last year by Mr Rifkind's predecessor, Cecil Parkinson, the down would be sliced in two by the final section of the M3 in a chalk cutting 400ft wide and 100ft deep. The government has refused to find from public funds the £100 million cost of a tunnel to take the motorway underneath the down as it skirts Winchester. Mr Rifkind, however, is known to be keen to save the down and has now been offered a possible solution with the idea of a toll tunnel that would be built and operated by the private sector.



Where the M3 will run

The campaigners are confident that there are institutions willing to provide the finance, in particular the increasing number of "green funds" that make investments on an ethical basis. However, they also want to invite participation from small investors in the manner of the government's recent privatisations. Barbara Bryant, one of the leading campaigners, said: "This would allow our community not only to find a solution, but to profit from one."

The association has proposed to Mr Rifkind that a feasibility study be prepared for his consideration, and members are likely to meet him later this month.

Couple sought over Grimsby lions escape

By ALICE THOMAS

FOUR lions that stalked the streets of Grimsby for two hours might have been set free, police said yesterday. A man and woman were seen near the lions' cage at Chipperfield's circus shortly before the animals escaped, and Supt Bob Bishop said that the police were considering the possibility of sabotage.

John Chipperfield, the lion tamer and brother of the owner of the circus, said: "This could quite possibly be sabotage because there was a hole in the tunnel netting which leads to their cage." He said it was the first time in 20 years he had known of lions escaping from the circus.

The man was white, in his mid-thirties, slim-built and wearing a light brown raincoat. The woman was also white, thin with dark hair tied back and wearing a jacket. Mr Bishop said that the police were examining a rope that might have been cut. "If someone did let those lions loose it was grossly and criminally irresponsible. There were hundreds of people in the area at the time."

Parents and children fled screaming from the big top when the lions broke out of their cages in the ring and ran out into the street during a performance near the town centre. A message was relayed by loudspeaker telling the audience that two buses had been despatched to allow people to get off the streets.

PC Ron Harrison told yesterday how he rescued a man who was being attacked by a lioness. "It was just like a lion pulling a wildebeest down," he said. "It grabbed him by the back of the neck and hanged with its full weight. It let go only when I drove into it with my car." The victim, Michael Strandt, of Grimsby, required 21 stitches in his wounds.

A circus worker said the lions — called Tanya, Carmen, Sheeba and Milahad — were rounded up by circus hands and the police. Last night they were back in the ring.

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Millionaire is jailed for drug plot

A millionaire drugs dealer was jailed for 20 years yesterday, and his accomplice, a milkman, was sentenced to 16 years after being found guilty at Southwark crown court of plotting to smuggle 20 kilograms of heroin, with a street value of £3.5 million, to Britain from Pakistan.

Judge Laurie said that anyone smuggling drugs worth over £1 million could expect a prison term of at least 14 years.

The pair were filmed in a London hotel as they planned distribution of the drugs after being lured into a video trap by customs officers following a tip-off. The millionaire, Mohammed Shahzad, aged 32 and described as a respected merchant from Lahore, Pakistan, was the organiser of the racket, and Kualid Latif, aged 37, a milkman, of Saltley, Birmingham, was his link man.

Libel award

Frank Cater, the former Flying Squad chief, yesterday won "substantial" libel damages from the *Mail on Sunday*, which quoted Stephen Waldorf, whom police shot during the hunt for David Martin, as saying he had been the victim of smears since the shooting. The High Court was told that this would have been taken as suggesting that Mr Cater was responsible for smears because it had not been made clear that a false claim about Mr Waldorf in Mr Cater's book, *The Sharp End*, was due to an editing error.

Protest charges

Thirteen men arrested in an anti-hunt protest on Thursday during scuffles as guests arrived at the Grosvenor House hotel, Mayfair, for *Horse and Hound* magazine's ball were remanded on unconditional bail at Marlborough Street magistrates' court yesterday. Warrants were issued for the arrest of five guests, including a building company director, who failed to appear on rowdiness charges after clashing with demonstrators.

Patient on mend

Debbie Wright, aged 23, of Leeds, was making good progress at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, yesterday after receiving in a nine-hour operation the heart, lungs and liver of a teenage youth killed in a road accident. Miss Wright, a cystic fibrosis sufferer, had been waiting nine months for a transplant.

Tea and drug

Clara White, aged 61 and a grandmother, celebrated a bingo win by spending £50 on cannabis for spiking her tea to soothe her aches, Horseferry Road magistrates' court was told yesterday. Police raided her home at Lambeth Walk and seized 30.38 grams of cannabis resin. Sentence was deferred for six months.

Thailand trial

Patricia Cahill, from Birmingham, charged with heroin trafficking in Bangkok, yesterday told a Thai juvenile court that a man had paid for her trip to Thailand, but that she had not known her luggage contained drugs. Miss Cahill, arrested last July when 17, was giving evidence for the first time. The case resumes on April 4.

Wife cleared

Evelyn "Mary-Lou" Raggett, aged 55, was cleared yesterday at the Central Criminal Court of the murder of her millionaire husband, Lewis, aged 57, at their home at Ash, Surrey, and of hiring contract killers to murder him.

Clamp report

Police have prepared a file for the Crown Prosecution Service after a patrol car was clamped at a Lincoln store while officers dealt with a reported shop-lifting case. Legal experts say the clamping firm could be prosecuted for obstructing police.

Where does it go? Bill Frost on unease among cash-raisers

Charities call for tighter laws to reassure public

SCOPE for charity fraud and abuse has never been greater, a senior administrator with Barnardo's, the young people's welfare organisation, has warned. Keith Manley, director of finance, said that it was feared that such crimes were increasing and going unchecked.

"The people who give must be sure that their money is going to the right cause. It is imperative that the rules are seen to be as watertight as possible. Public confidence is at stake," he said. Other charities said existing safeguards were inadequate and called for new legislation.

The big charities are calling for the tightening of laws to tackle crime, maladministration and simple inefficiency. They fear that private and corporate donations to the charity industry, an estimated £13 billion last year, are not adequately protected.

Enhanced powers for the Charity Commission are being sought to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities for policing more than 170,000 organisations in England and Wales. Robin Guthrie, chief charity commissioner, said: "Without new legislation we shall not be as effective in our work as Parliament and the public want us to be."

Tory backbench MPs have expressed disquiet in recent weeks over the commission's effectiveness. They are concerned at the time taken by the commission to investigate complaints and say that it is too willing to tolerate overtly political activities by some charities.

The charities would welcome legislation to ensure that every organisation, particularly new ones, had to register with the commission and submit full accounts. There is now no way of checking that all charities are using adequate accounting methods. A bill aimed at closing the loopholes was promised in the present Parliament, but it has yet to be tabled.

Nick Kavanagh, chief accountant with Oxfam UK, said reform of the Charities Act 1960 was long overdue. "Cases of fraud and maladministration are not endemic to the system. However, when they do happen public confidence is shaken and we all get tarred with the same brush."

Mr Manley called for closer monitoring of newly established charities. "It is during the first couple of years that problems emerge. I am not talking about deliberate fraud, although that is sometimes the case.

"What concerns us almost as much is maladministration: a new charity spending the bulk of its income on salaries and overheads instead of the cause itself."

David Forrest, secretary of the Charity Commission, said: "We want our powers to tackle the problems greatly sharpened up. At the moment, in cases of fraud or abuse, we have to go to the Attorney General to initiate a prosecution. The commission needs direct access to the courts under such circumstances to recover charity property or to enforce obligations owed to charities."

Ian Theodoresan, director of finance with Save the Children, said the commission needed more powers and there should be a regulatory body with teeth. More accountants, lawyers and investigators were needed to look into cases of alleged fraud or abuse.

The commission employs 50 investigators. Meeting the requirements of Save the Children would call for an increase in the commission's £19 million budget when ministers know there is backbench disquiet over its role. Last year 450 cases of alleged abuse were investigated. A quarter involved claims of deliberate fraud, a third concerned charges of maladministration and 10 per cent arose from allegations that funds raised had gone on to the wrong cause.

The Charity Commission has been accused by leading members of the Conservative backbench home affairs committee of political bias because it has taken too long to complete an investigation into Oxfam.

The findings of the enquiry, launched after the charity began a campaign supporting sanctions against South Africa, have yet to be published. The International Freedom Foundation, a free-market think tank, said last month: "Delays in completing the investigation, which began in April 1990, lead to the suspicion that the commission is in need of a radical shake-up of its structures and at worst is politically biased itself."

MPs want an ombudsman appointed to deal with complaints, believing that the commission has too often displayed sympathies for radical Third World charities. David Forrest said pointed out that the commission was well used to criticism from both ends of the political spectrum.

TOP TEN FUND-RAISING CHARITIES £m

	Voluntary income	Total income	Charity expend	Fund-raising expend	Admin expend	Total expend
Oxfam	49,286	66,718	46,995	7,417	2,023	58,649
National Trust	43,418	69,122	69,932	8,469	3,468	61,869
Royal National Lifeboat Inst	40,487	47,422	24,099	4,526	1,647	30,272
Imperial Cancer Res Fund	40,295	48,637	44,770	3,420	685	48,875
Save the Children Fund	36,502	51,837	37,049	5,117	1,256	43,416
Cancer Research Campaign	31,889	38,158	36,422	2,273	717	39,412
Salvation Army	29,857	56,568	43,709	1,859	2,713	49,432
Charity Projects Ltd	27,559	27,824	7,447	-	152	7,559
Barnardos	25,778	61,349	44,984	6,220	1,649	52,853
NSPCC	22,868	28,832	22,419	2,541	1,105	26,065

Figures are for financial years that ended during 1989

TOP TEN CHARITY CHEQUES

	Total £m	Cash £m
NatWest	12.5	2.3
BT	12.31	5.67
Barclays	10.41	2.46
BP	9.0	5.3
British Gas	6.0	n/a
Shell	5.97	1.77
TSB	5.77	3.38
ICI	5.15	3.35
Tesco	4.66	4.22
Midland	4.54	0.81

Amounts are for each company's last financial year. Source: CAF

Guthrie: commission must have more powers

TONY WHITE

Going in for the kill in comfort: This 1926 20 horsepower Rolls-Royce, custom-built for tiger shooting, is to be included in a Christie's auction on Monday at the Hurlingham Club, London. The vehicle was ordered by the Maharaja of Bharatpur in India and rebuilt by G. Wylder and Co to include "fly-up front seats" so that he could pop up through the sun roof opening to bag his kill. Willem Hafkamp, of The Netherlands, its owner, and his son Albert, say that the car, expected to fetch up to £60,000, also has a klaxon to scare sacred cows off the road. The Indian government has recently restricted the sale of classic cars introduced during the days of the Raj.

Doubt cast on police statements

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Correspondent

SCIENTIFIC analysis cast doubt on pocket books and statements involving ten detectives who dealt with the Birmingham Six case, the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

The dates when interviews were recorded as having taken place were altered in three pocket books, David Baxendale, a Home Office scientist, said. There were different inks on the pages of some books, and in a statement involving a man on trial with the six, the original was changed and two pages substituted.

Thirteen officers who took part in the investigation of the Birmingham Six have been linked in court to irregularities. They were in a team from the West Midlands force whose work ended with the convictions of Patrick Hill, Hugh Callaghan, John Walker, Richard McIlkenny, Gerard Hunter and William Power for the Birmingham public house bombings in November 1974 in which 21 people died.

Dr Baxendale said that dates recorded for some interviews had been changed. The original dates in two of the pocket books showed that the notes of interviews in November 1974 were written up in 1975. The dates were altered to put the notes nearer to the time the interviews took place.

Questioned by Graham Boal, senior treasury counsel, Dr Baxendale agreed that he had found nothing "scientifically sinister" among most of the pocket books, notes and witness statements which he examined. There was nothing wrong with the confessions which four of the men were alleged to have made.

The appeal continues on Monday.

High-flyer to head prisons

By Quentin Cowdry
Home Affairs Correspondent

A WHITEHALL high-flyer who is determined to increase the pace of reform in Britain's jails is to take charge of the prison service later this year, it emerged yesterday. Christopher Train, the current director-general, is to retire six months early.

Mr Train, aged 59, is believed to have been disappointed by the criticism that was made of senior management in the recently published Woolf report into last year's jail riots. However, it is unclear whether he was pressured into leaving early.

His successor is Joe Pilling, a member of the service's governing board for the past three and a half years, who at 45 is young to have been appointed head of such an important Whitehall department. He will be pressed by ministers to implement rapid reforms to enhance conditions for inmates and to make the prison estate less riot-prone.

Mr Pilling, due to take over in the late summer, will also be under pressure to provide the service with more dynamic leadership and to pay greater heed than his predecessor to media relations. Lord Justice Woolf said the service required "more visible" leadership.

The prospective director-general indicated that he had taken the message on board yesterday by agreeing to talk against the advice of his media managers.

Mr Pilling said: "This is a difficult time for the prison service and it's going to be under the spotlight in the next few years." He added: "Because of what Lord Justice Woolf said, so will I." The prospect, he confessed, was "somewhat daunting".

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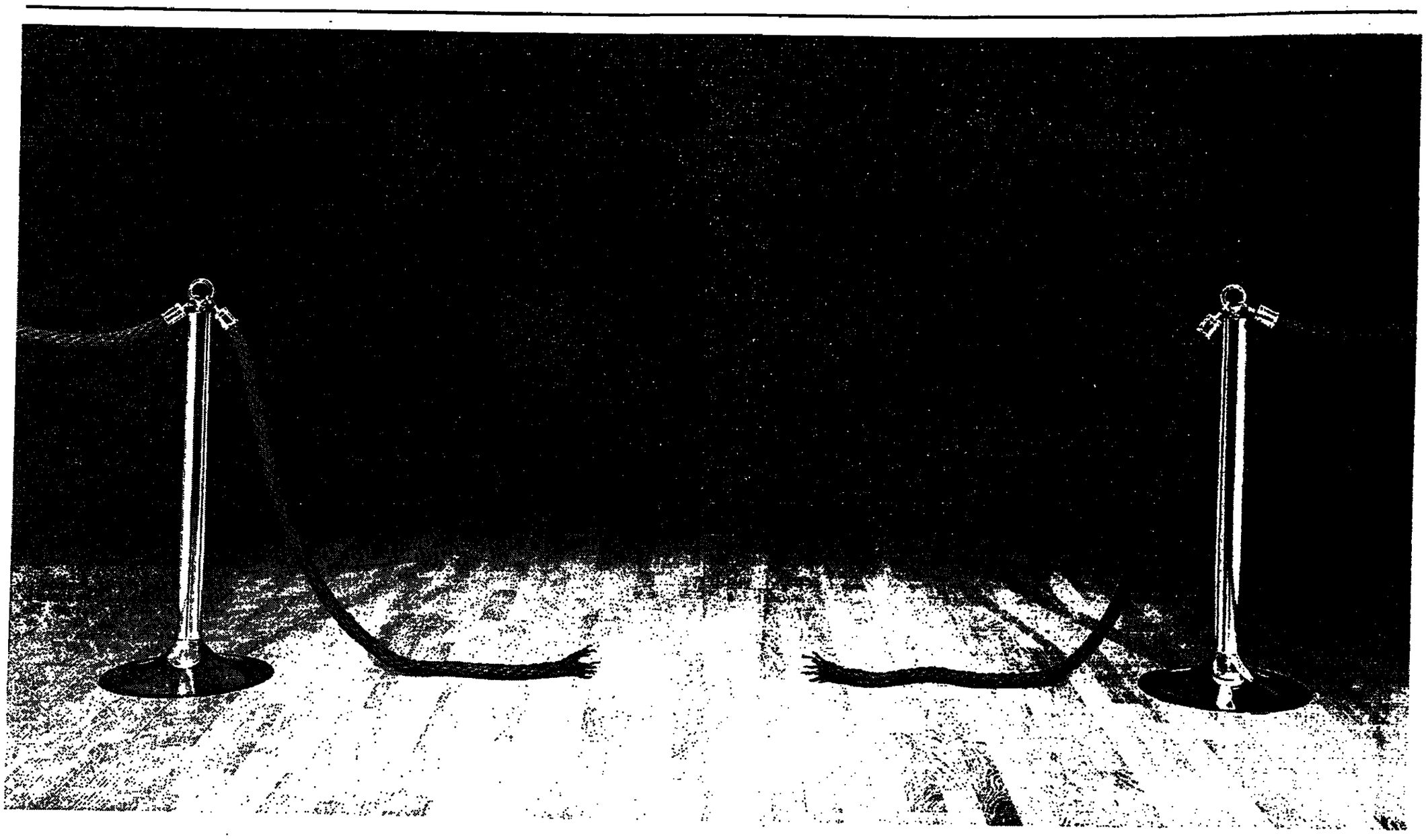

NIKE. THE FIRST RUNNING SHOES TO MAKE IT TO THE SCIENCE MUSEUM.

The Science Museum. Home to man's greatest technological achievements. The jet engine. The Apollo 10 Spacecraft. Nike shoes. Nike shoes? Yes, Nike shoes. See just how far they've travelled, from a simple original design right up to the revolutionary Air 180, in a fascinating new exhibition. It's running on the first floor. 'Running on Air.' The Nike Exhibition of Sports Shoe Technology. From March 8 to May 10 at the Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7. From 10.00 – 18.00 Mon to Sat. 11.00 – 18.00 Sun.

NIKE

Allied lack of will may allow Saddam to escape punishment

Fear of being tarred with the same brush may possibly underlie the world's reluctance to bring aggressors to justice for their war crimes, Marc Weller writes

Saddam: could insist on trying allied prisoners

CRIME and punishment go hand in hand. But when the offence is horrific enough, society sometimes cannot muster the will to enforce the law. President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and the members of his Revolutionary Command Council may benefit from this phenomenon.

In international law, responsibility attaches to waging war in three different ways. Firstly, the aggressor state itself is guilty of having committed an international crime. International society, however, does not demand retribution. While reparations can, of course, be required to compensate for the destruction that was caused, punitive damages are not permissible.

Secondly, there is individual responsibility. The Iraqi officers and men who committed violations of humanitarian law in the theatre of operations are liable for war crimes. In addition to Kuwait and other affected states, Iraq itself could exercise jurisdiction, but this prospect would become relevant only after a change in government in Baghdad. As the enforcement of justice cannot rely on the vicissitudes of upheaval and revolution in Iraq, the immediate and detailed processing of prisoners of war by the coalition forces with a view to prosecuting those guilty of war crimes before repatriation would be essential. This could well take months.

The latest security council resolution on Iraq, however, is conspicuously silent when it comes to war crimes. Rather, the principle of a rapid return of prisoners of war in accordance with the relevant Geneva convention is emphasised. But under the Third Geneva Convention, those PoWs who are guilty of war crimes do not have to be repatriated immediately and can be convicted and made to serve their sentence.

Iraq, however, might invoke the same principle. The authorities in Baghdad could demand that the prisoners they hold should also be put on trial — for the alleged indiscriminate bombing of civilian targets, say. This spurious claim would be designed to induce the coalition forces to contemplate a straight exchange of prisoners, cutting out the possiblity of war-crimes trials.

The question of the responsibility of the political leadership of Iraq is more complex. Responsibility for breaches of the Geneva law is not limited to those who actually committed breaches of its provisions in the field. Those who gave the orders from Baghdad are also liable to prosecution.

In addition, the political leadership could be confronted with the third element of international responsibility: the charge of having committed a crime against peace by waging an aggressive war. Again, the international coalition, and with it the UN, are apparently not all that keen on having to deal with the issue. It is not referred to in any of the resolutions on Kuwait, although the UN's International Law Commission has been hard at work over the past years to draft a code of offences against the peace and security of mankind. That code reflects and refines the principles enunciated at Nuremberg and Tokyo. But there has been virtually no application of those principles since the end of the second world war, despite the intervening plenty of war and violence. General Leopoldo Galtieri, for example, was tried in Argentina for incompetence in managing the Falklands war, not for crimes against peace.

Other states are also reluctant to embrace those principles. America was found guilty by the International Court of Justice of having used illegal force when it undertook armed subversion against Nicaragua. Would that judgment imply that President Reagan, who was in office then, was individually responsible and can be tried in any jurisdiction? These evaluations may well explain the reluctance of international society to take its own draft code on offences against peace seriously.

(The author is a research fellow at St Catharine's College and at the Research Centre for International Law at Cambridge University.)

UNITED STATES

Washington backtracks on call for disarmament

By MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND PAUL ADAMS IN JERUSALEM

AS JAMES Baker, the Secretary of State, met General Norman Schwarzkopf, who commanded the allied forces in the Gulf war, at the start of his tour of the Middle East in Riyadh, the Saudi capital, yesterday, it became clear in Washington that the Bush administration has quietly backtracked on one of its previously stated postwar aims: curbing the relentless build up of conventional arms in the Middle East.

After his meeting with Mr Baker, who later met Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi foreign minister, and King Fahd, General Schwarzkopf told reporters that he hoped to send American troops home from the Gulf "as fast as we possibly can". He added, however, that it might take "a little longer to get the equipment home".

In Jerusalem yesterday Palestinian leaders cautiously welcomed Mr Baker's reported offer of talks during his visit to Israel next week. But American and Israeli officials said they doubted such a meeting would take place. American sources expressed amazement. "We're very much taken aback," said one, adding that no instructions had been issued from Washington to arrange a meeting. However, he said, enquiries were being made.

The confusion over Mr Baker's remark to reporters on his way to Riyadh has, in fact, placed Palestinians in the unusual position of welcoming an encounter which may never occur. In recent years local delegations have boycotted planned meetings with American and British foreign secretaries.

At the same time foreign relief organisations renewed their criticism of the seven-week curfew in the occupied territories and urged the international community to end the occupation by Israel. Under the title, *What James Baker should know about the other occupation*, the Co-ordinating Committee of International Non-Governmental Organisations said the Israeli authorities were "prepared to destroy the economic and social infrastructure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip". The West Bank and Gaza Strip remain under strict night-time curfew.

Late last week in Washington, the administration asked Congress to approve the $1.6 billion (£850 million) sale of sophisticated F16 warplanes to Egypt, one of its closest partners in the coalition against Iraq, a clear reversal of it policy on conventional arms in the Middle East.

The administration is understood also to have submitted a classified report to Congress detailing the possible sale of new arms worth $18 billion to five coalition partners, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Egypt and Turkey.

As recently as February 6 Mr Baker listed five key challenges that America would have to meet to secure a lasting postwar peace in the Middle East. One of these was to achieve "effective arms control and prevent proliferation of conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction", he said.

Cause to celebrate, page 10
Letters, page 11

Tables turned: an Iraqi army major, blindfolded and hands tied behind his back after being caught in a car at a roadblock in Kuwait City yesterday, pleads for his life with the Kuwaiti soldiers who captured him

FRANCE

Paris retreats from demand for conference

From JOHN PHILLIPS IN PARIS

IN A surprising move, France has indicated that for the time being it is renouncing its long-standing demand for the immediate convening after the Gulf war of an international peace conference on the Middle East, diplomats said yesterday.

Paris has by no means definitively given up its search for one or several such conferences to try to obtain a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement to resolve the Palestinian issue, the Arab-Israeli conflict and the problems of Lebanon, they said.

But Roland Dumas, the foreign minister, said yesterday that France would rejoice if the Middle East tour by James Baker, the American Secretary of State, which began yesterday, allowed a way out of the impasse to be found.

He added that France had not given up the idea of an international conference at some point in the future. French leaders continued to believe that a conference would be "indispensable at one moment or other of the peace process", he said.

Western diplomats said the change of tack in Paris appeared designed to avoid accusations from Washington that France might sabotage the peace process by pursuing its traditional independent and maverick foreign policy.

With President Mitterrand scheduled to meet President Bush in Martinique next Thursday, Paris is anxious to avoid the kind of criticism that London levelled at France after President Mitterrand launched a last-ditch peace plan in the United Nations on January 15.

Equally, France does not want to wave a red rag at Israel by at this time pushing the international conference idea too heavily, one French diplomat said.

By emphasising that France was standing back to give Washington room to manoeuvre, Paris was also keeping up the pressure on the United States to take some concrete steps to resolve regional problems, including tackling Israel on the fate of the occupied Arab territories, he said.

"The two essential points for us are, first of all, that everyone speak to each other, and then that the UN is involved in the final solution so as to give it the approval of the international community," the diplomat added.

On Wednesday M Dumas said that "what is important is that the Israeli-Palestinian dialogue start".

Arabs held by Britain are freed

London — The Home Office yesterday freed 33 Arabs detained during the war (writes Quentin Cowdry). Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, said they now posed "a greatly diminished risk" to security.

Mr Baker also revoked restriction orders on another six Iraqis and two Arabs. He said those who had been deported would be able to seek readmission to Britain.

Civil rights' groups, who had protested about the detentions, said the announcement indicated that the Home Office's claims were bogus.

Kuwaiti delay

London — Kuwaiti opposition leaders said here yesterday they were postponing a conference on democracy to allow Kuwaitis inside the country to take part (Michael Binyon writes). They are seeking permission to hold the meeting in Kuwait City, but are not hopeful because of the imposition of martial law.

Talks on aid

Luxembourg — Officials from 27 nations meet here on Monday to co-ordinate aid for Middle East countries affected by the crisis. They will discuss increasing aid and distributing funds promised to Egypt, Jordan, Turkey and Israel. *(AP)*

Journalists safe

Baghdad — Iraq says 40 Western journalists missing in southern Iraq have been handed over to the Red Cross in the Iraqi capital. *(Reuter)*

GULF SECURITY

Assad allays Iranian fears

From REUTER IN DAMASCUS

A TOP Iranian delegation left Syria yesterday with an assurance that Tehran would have a future role in a Gulf security order drawn up by eight Arab members of the American-led alliance that drove Iraq from Kuwait.

Diplomats and political sources said President al-Assad of Syria had allayed Iranian concern over the security pact, which was agreed in Damascus on Wednesday. Iran's vice-president, Hassan Habibi, and the foreign minister, Ali Akbar Velayati, had had two days of "good, fruitful and cordial" talks with President Assad and members of his government, according to an Iranian official.

The sources said President Assad had assured the delegation that Iran would have a role in the future regional security order, allaying Iranian concern over the "Damascus declaration". "The meeting was very useful and successful ... It cleared all signs of Iranian sensitivity and misunderstandings of the pact. The president absorbed and defused Iranian worries."

During the meetings, Syrian officials emphasised the "importance of Iran's role" in the region. Iran denounced the security pact, which envisages a force consisting mainly of Egyptian and Syrian troops. It has been at odds with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states over their close ties with America.

RAF

Tornados fly last mission

THE RAF Tornado F3s flew their last operational mission here yesterday. The final sortie, involving two jets, landed at the King Abdul Aziz airbase in Dhahran at 7pm marking the end of the round-the-clock combat air defence sorties which have continued since August 12 (Michael EVans writes from Dhahran).

The scene at the base is now like a giant film set, with hundreds of people engaged in packing up and dismantling equipment, removing temporary air crew facilities and preparing for the return home of the combat planes.

It is still a wartime setting, but the stars of the show are thinking only of their families, of how they are going to adjust to a slower-moving life, and of what the future holds.

The first Tornados are expected to fly back to Britain and Germany early next week. The Tornado F3 air crews of 43 and 29 Squadrons, and the Tornado GR1 crews of 31 Squadron, admit it is going to be difficult to switch from war here to peace at home.

Grup Captain Cliff Spink, the 44-year-old force commander at the Dhahran base, responsible for about 1,500 RAF personnel, flew one of the last sorties himself yesterday. He wanted to fly over the battlefields in Kuwait and see for himself the devastation caused by Iraq's destruction of the oil wells.

He said: "Despite the marvellous achievements made here, with the clinically superb bombing campaign, I think everyone will leave here with the feeling of disbelief that someone, clearly without morals, could have caused such an ecological disaster."

He added: "As soon as you get airborne and look north you can see the smoke from the oil fields. As you fly over, you can see that the sand is turning black everywhere from the soot. Down wind, the smoke spreads for hundreds of miles." The air crews flying their last sorties yesterday came back with stories of a new hazard facing aircraft over Kuwait. Flocks of vultures, hovering at up to 2,000 feet, have begun to circle the battlefields, grim testimony to the allies' campaign.

Schwarzkopf storms into everyday slang

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

THE mystery is over. One of the first things Norman Schwarzkopf will do once he returns home is to dress up as Father Christmas.

The four-star general's wife of 22 years, Brenda, let this slip yesterday after speculation among columnists about her husband's plans when Operation Desert Storm is finally over. "We will definitely relive Christmas," she told CNN television, "because Norman always plays Santa Claus and we missed it."

Mrs Schwarzkopf, aged 49, has become a star herself as the commander of United States forces in the Gulf has gained international acclaim. Members of Congress gave her a standing ovation in January when President Bush invited her to his State of the Union address, saying she held "a special place in all American hearts" as a symbol of the strength of families with relatives serving in the Middle East.

She has also given some insight into Stormin' Norman's character: a lovable man with a compulsion to succeed, even at home. "He doesn't like to lose at all," she said. "We don't particularly like to play board games with him because he's a sore loser."

She plans to greet her husband with a meal of duck, pork-fried rice and a bowl of mint chocolate chip ice-cream, his favourite meal, after his seven months in the desert eating military rations. When he retires this summer after 35 years in the army, she predicts a series of outdoors holidays similar to a 10-day Alaskan camping trip they went on years ago with their three children, now aged 20, 18 and 13. Mrs Schwarzkopf was noticeably more tolerant of her interviewer's questions than the general would have been.

The general is now so popular that his name is creeping into American slang as a verb meaning to conquer a problem as quickly and cheaply as possible. According to *The Washington Times*, the phrase "you can't Schwarzkopf the drug problem" was first heard on local radio.

Brenda Schwarzkopf: a symbol in her own right

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OPPOSITION TO SADDAM

Rafsanjani urges Baath regime to step down

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

DESPITE reports that loyalist forces were getting the upper hand in Iraq, fierce fighting continued yesterday as the pressures mounted to force Saddam Hussein out of office.

Iraq's neighbours have stepped up their campaign against the Baathist government. President Rafsanjani, in a marked break with Iranian neutrality, yesterday called on President Saddam and his ruling party to step down, saying their attempt to crush rebellion and hold on to power "will be their last mistake".

Addressing worshippers gathered at Tehran university for Friday prayers, Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani said Iran would co-operate with Iraq only if Saddam's Baath party surrenders "to the will of the people".

His sermon was carried by Tehran radio, monitored in Nicosia. It was the first time an Iranian leader had openly backed the revolt in Iraq. "Saddam is making a mistake while suppressing the people," Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani said. "This is the worst mistake. If the Baathists will not listen to the voice of the people, it will be their last mistake. If the Baathists surrender to the will of the people, we in Iran are ready for co-operation." It would be a great mistake for the Iraqi Baath party to "paint the final page of its record with blood".

Saudi leaders repeated their denunciations of Saddam, saying they could not live with him. In Damascus, an Iraqi opposition leader said Arab states had pledged military aid to overthrow him.

Jalal Talebani, an exiled Iraqi opposition leader, told a press conference that several Arab countries had responded positively to requests from rebels for weapons and food.

Anti-Saddam forces claimed they were still holding Basra, the scene of bloody pitched battles between Shia opposition groups and the Republican Guard for the past two days. They said that demonstrations and fighting were also continuing in the southern Iraqi cities of Samaneah, Nasiriyah, Diwaniyah, Muthena, Amarah and Shemoniya. A student who left Basra on Wednesday told reporters in Damascus that 400 people had been executed after an anti-Saddam protest by about 1,000 people.

According to western intelligence reports, the Republican Guard and army units sent to the south were now crushing the rebels in bitter street fighting. Opposition had spread to more than 20 towns, however.

The main threat to Saddam was not from the Shia uprising or from Iraq's neighbours but from disaffected members of his inner political and military circle, according to American intelligence assessments. The view in Washington was that the rebellions by the Kurds and Shia population might prolong Saddam's control because it would rally the military behind him in an effort to prevent the break-up of Iraq.

US intelligence agencies believe there is serious discontent among Saddam's close allies. Elements in the party and the Republican Guard are said to be angry that he led the country into a ruinous war.

Rafsanjani: break with Iranian neutrality

Homeward bound: a young Kuwaiti boy, wrapped in his father's coat, waiting with hundreds of other refugees near the Iraqi border to be allowed to return home

DETAINEES FREED

Thousand hostages cross border back to Kuwait

From ASSOCIATED PRESS ON THE IRAQ-KUWAIT BORDER

MORE than 1,000 Kuwaiti hostages, held prisoner in Iraq for two weeks, have poured across the border in the first release of an estimated 30,000 Kuwaitis taken by President Saddam Hussein's military.

The prisoners told tales yesterday of terrible crowding in a military camp, drinking water from swamps and eating sparse meals of hard bread and rock-laden rice.

Meanwhile, two foreign journalists reported missing in southern Iraq were found wandering in the Iraqi desert by US army troops. Timothy Dickey, a technician, and Chris Everson, a cameraman, who both work for the American television network CBS, said Iraqi gunmen had stolen their vehicle and equipment.

On Baghdad radio yesterday, the Iraqi government acknowledged it was holding journalists, saying the 40 foreign journalists disappeared "during illegal presence in Basra" in southern Iraq. The radio also said two American soldiers, identified as members of the 7th Army Corps, were captured in Basra and that the group was taken to Baghdad on Thursday before transfer to representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

More than a dozen Iraqi military trucks moved the 1,180 Kuwaiti hostages from a military base outside Basra on Thursday. Shortly before midnight they dumped the detainees near the border, where they began a lengthy wait in near-freezing temperatures while Kuwait army officers checked their papers.

"It was like hell," said Hami Jamal, aged 27, a computer engineer. "We drank swamp water for days. And for what crimes? For being Kuwaitis."

"We are starving," cried Mansoor al-Baqsji, aged 40, a supervisor for the Kuwait Petroleum Company. "I haven't had a full meal in two weeks." He estimated he had lost about 15lb.

The men were among an estimated 30,000 Kuwaitis taken to Iraq during the occupation of the emirate, according to Kuwait's government-in-exile. The hostages said soldiers captured most of them from their homes between February 21 and 23.

Junkyard hunt for souvenirs

From REUTER IN AL-MUTLA, KUWAIT

ALLIED troops are scavenging through "Ambush Alley" for souvenirs of the Iraqi army's final bloody rout and many are horrified by the carnage all around them.

Allied aircraft halted the desperate flight of troops from Kuwait at a bottleneck on the Kuwait City-Basra highway. The road at the foot of the Mutla ridge is a vast junkyard of war. Hundreds of tanks and other armoured vehicles and stolen civilian cars lie crushed and broken around the road, pushed into heaps by military bulldozers.

"No human being should be allowed to do this to another human being. No one," said a British soldier, surveying the wreckage from the top of an Iraqi tank. "They didn't stand a chance. It's disgusting," he said unbolting the heavy machinegun from the wrecked tank. The gun was to become a regimental souvenir.

Apart from guns, grenades and artillery shells the junkyard offers a vast array of essential supplies. Tyres and wheels are in short supply in Kuwait. The scrapheap offers a selection from lorries to new limousines and sports cars.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THE MAKING OF JOHN MAJOR

EXCLUSIVE PRE-PUBLICATION EXTRACTS FROM THE FIRST IN-DEPTH BIOGRAPHY

TOMORROW

Mandela trial witness denies sex at church

From RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

THE key state witness in the trial of Winnie Mandela and three other people on kidnapping and assault charges testified yesterday that he rebuked a church minister after he was told to sleep with him and another man in a double bed.

Kenneth Kgase, aged 31, who claims he was whipped and beaten by Mrs Mandela after being abducted with three others from a Methodist Church manse in Soweto, a black township refuge, underwent gruelling cross-examination during his third consecutive day in the witness box at the Rand Supreme Court in Johannesburg.

Mrs Mandela and her three co-defendants have denied the charges of kidnapping and assault.

Mr Kgase said under questioning by George Bizos, counsel for Mrs Mandela, that the Rev Paul Verryn made a habit of asking newcomers to the manse to share his bed. On his first night he was told to sleep in a double bed where Mr Verryn and another man joined him.

He felt the minister's action of tickling him when the three of them awoke in the morning was strange. "I told him not to do it again," Mr Kgase said. He corrected his earlier testimony that he had been "tickled all over his body" to say that he had been tickled all over his lower back.

Altough he described the minister's alleged behaviour as strange, he stated that he did not report it to anyone at the time.

Asked about his attitude towards homosexuality, Mr Kgase, his head drooping and looking very tired, said: "I can't judge anything about homosexuality. I don't know if it's a normal way of behaving."

Mr Bizos claimed his behaviour was consistent with someone who would "hear no evil and see no evil". Mr Kgase replied: "I have a right to all those attitudes ... I don't want to be in the way of too many people."

He was challenged why he waited five weeks before reporting several alleged crimes, including the attempted murder of a member of Mrs Mandela's former bodyguards, the Mandela United Football Club, to the police. He said he had been advised to do so by Mr Verryn.

A crisis committee, which included members of several church groups, had been appointed to investigate allegations of sexual abuse at the manse and as it was then still proceeding with its work, Mr Verryn had suggested that they wait until it completed its enquiries before reporting to the police.

The church inquiry found there was no evidence to justify allegations that Mr Verryn had sexually abused youths staying at the manse.

Mr Bizos claimed there was a pattern for newcomers at the manse. "The Rev Verryn made a habit of asking them to spend their first night with him (and Tom Nkosi) on his bed. Following that first night, some would stop sleeping with the Rev Verryn but some would spend several nights," Mr Bizos claimed. Mr Kgase said he had noticed these events but declared that he was unaware of any homosexual activity at the manse.

One of the youths alleged to have been abducted and assaulted, Stompie Moeketsi Seipei, aged 14, was found dead several days later. Mrs Mandela's chief bodyguard, Jerry Richardson, was sentenced to death last year for the murder.

Pressure on Malan increases

From GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

MAGNUS Malan, the South African defence minister, is under mounting pressure to resign after further revelations of his involvement with a secret military unit which murdered perceived enemies of the state in the 1980s.

Having defiantly weathered outrage from opposition politicians, General Malan is in danger of being swept from office by a fusillade from within his own ranks. The minister has consistently claimed that he learned of the existence of the unit, known as the Civil Co-operation Bureau, in November 1989.

However, disaffected veterans of the special forces group, seeking £300,000 in pension payments, submitted a document to the Pretoria Supreme Court this week which authorised the transfer of a regular soldier to the bureau. It was signed by General Malan on December 5, 1988.

A judicial commission of inquiry last year, which severely condemned the activities of the unit, found that the general had granted approval in principle for such a covert organisation during 1986. Demands for his resignation were renewed last month when a report by the auditor-general implicated him in unauthorised payments to agents of the unit dating back years.

Calcutta puts ban on UK film team

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE Calcutta high court has banned shooting of the British film *City of Joy* anywhere on the city's teeming streets. The decision raises doubts about the film-makers' ability to complete the project in the volatile West Bengal capital, which fears that its reputation for squalor and disease is to be highlighted across the world.

The script has been altered so many times to try to please local politicians that it now has hardly any resemblance to Dominique Lapierre's book. Jyoti Basu, West Bengal's chief minister, said in Delhi yesterday that he understood the script had been revised 14 times. Noting that it focused on poverty, he added: "We have wealth in Calcutta, too."

The film-makers' trials are plainly not over yet. Mr Basu revealed that the latest version of the script had been sent to intellectuals in the city for their views. Once their opinions had been received, more talks would be held.

In the meantime, the high court has directed that the film-makers may continue working in an elaborate film-set built on the outskirts of Calcutta, but that no location shots will be permitted for two weeks, when the position will be reviewed.

West Bengal's advocate-general, Naranarayan Goopta, told the court that the script, as it stood, gave an impression that Calcutta was a city of lepers, eunuchs, pimps, prostitutes and mafias. It was a "drain inspector's report".

Counsel for the film producers protested that the central government had approved the script and that there had been no objection at the time from the state government. A large sum of money had been invested in the project.

The film, principally a British investment, is being directed by Roland Joffé (*The Killing Fields* and *The Mission*) and co-produced by Ian Smith. Their project seems to be sinking ever deeper into the Calcutta political mire.

Lapierre's novel is hated by the Calcutta intelligentsia, and some Bengali-language newspapers object to foreigners making a film about their city.

Mr Basu pointed out that decisions to allow film crews to operate in India are taken by the Delhi government, not by states. "We didn't invite them. They came and we don't want to stop them. That would not be right. We have serious objections to the book. We don't like some of the things being depicted in the film." Mr Basu said he could not allow the film crew to disrupt Calcutta traffic. Referring to the script, he acknowledged: "We have changed quite a bit of it."

Maralinga Aborigines want Britain to pay for clean-up

From ROBERT COCKBURN IN MARALINGA, AUSTRALIA

HUGHIE Windlass, an Aboriginal elder, swatted at a dense swarm of flies with a stick as he looked over his contaminated Maralinga tribal homelands. "It's too late to say sorry. Our future is broken," he said. "The British have to pay up now."

The Aborigines' decision to complain formally gives the Australian government the go-ahead it needed in its 10-year battle to pursue Britain for a share of the rehabilitation and compensation costs of the Maralinga nuclear testing range in South Australia. The range was abandoned by Britain in 1967, and it has so far refused to accept liability for carrying out this task.

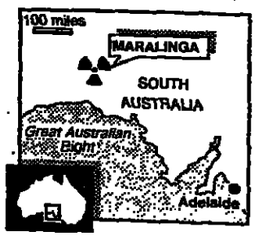
It was an extraordinary meeting held in 45°C temperatures 50 miles west of the old British Maralinga base which is now a ghost town. Tribal leaders from South Australia, the Northern Territory and West Australia, with their lawyers, had gathered there. "I used to travel these lands as a girl," explained Myra Tjummutja from Alice Springs. "It is very sad for me to see them like this now."

The Aboriginal community was driven from the area by the nuclear testing between 1953 and 1963. But the full extent of the contamination was only discovered after the community won the land rights to an area they had occupied for thousands of years and began to return in the mid-1980s.

A series of secret tests in which nuclear weapons were blown up, spreading plutonium far beyond the range, were revealed just in time by the South Australia government. Andrew Collett, the Aborigines' lawyer, said Britain had said nothing of the dangers they faced at the time.

A Technical Assessment Group study by Australian, British and American scientists, completed last year, traced the full extent of plutonium on Aboriginal land and the hundreds of tons of contaminated debris left in burial pits round Maralinga. The scientists found that the Aboriginal open-air way of life made them highly vulnerable to the threat of plutonium, the most deadly carcinogen known. The animals they still hunt feed in the most contaminated areas.

Tribal elders are prepared to travel to London to put their case and demonstrate the terrible damage inflicted on their people, whose survival will be guaranteed only by a return to their lands, they say. A sample of Maralinga plutonium may accompany them to highlight the dangers of an estimated 22 kilogrammes of weapons-grade plutonium discovered in the Taranki region.



Britain's refusal to fund a clean-up is based on two agreements signed with Australia before the full extent of contamination was discovered. Indeed, the 1967 clearing exercise "Operation Brumbie" is now accepted to have covered up the plutonium, making the clean-up even more difficult.

Mr Collett pointed out that, while both Britain and Australia are contributing to the Gulf war environmental disaster, they have been reluctant to clean up one of the world's worst military nuclear messes at Maralinga. In Australia, Maralinga is still seen as an Aboriginal problem rather than one of concern to the country as a whole.

In a statement on the technical study, sent yesterday to the British, Australian and South Australian governments, the Maralinga community spokesman, Archie Barton, said: "Whilst we don't agree with all the reasoning of the TAG report, we acknowledge that it is a thorough, well-researched and co-operative report. In particular, based on our scientific advice, Maralinga Tjarutja accepts that TAG's standard for safe habitation of five milli sieverts per year is appropriate in these circumstances. Thus approximately 300 square kilometres of landed contaminated by plutonium must be cleaned up or fenced off."

His statement adds: "It is technically feasible to clean up this land by removing the top soil and replanting the vegetation. However, given the current clean-up techniques, the community is not keen to solve one environmental disaster by creating what it sees as another. Instead Maralinga Tjarutja is prepared to have the contaminated region properly fenced and all other contamination secured inside the fenced area, provided that the Maralinga people receive acceptable compensation."

Italy may seize boats to halt the Albanian exodus

By Janet Stobart in Rome, Dessa Trevisan in Belgrade and Our Foreign Staff

THOUSANDS of hungry and desperate Albanian refugees scrabbled for food and shelter in the growing squalor of Brindisi harbour yesterday, as the Italian cabinet concluded emergency meetings aimed at stemming the flow of immigrants.

More than 15,000 refugees spent Thursday night in the open or Brindisi's windswept docks. Yesterday's cabinet meeting called for the confiscation of further boats carrying immigrants headed for Adriatic ports and the repatriation of those aboard.

Refugees already on Italian soil will be processed and an emergency commission will be set up, led by Vito Lattanzio, the minister for civil protection, to help accommodate those allowed to remain. However, they are expected to be rather few since the law demands that, exceptional cases apart, refugees be able to show they have employment in Italy or other means of livelihood, such as already established family support. Claudio Martelli, the Socialist deputy prime minister, is responsible for the law governing immigrants to Italy. Last summer the law increased the number of countries from which Italy will accept political refugees, but the list does not include Albania, once briefly annexed to Italy during the second world war.

While the government expressed solidarity with the refugees leaping ashore in the Puglia ports of Brindisi, Bari, Otranto and Monopoli, the cabinet was also quick to plead with the Albanian government to try to dissuade further would-be refugees from attempting to cross the Adriatic.

In Geneva, the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees urged Italy not to carry out its threat to turn back the tide of refugees. It said it had asked the Italian government to give the refugees a chance to explain their reasons for leaving Albania so that their status could be determined.

In Brindisi, the lucky ones slept under plastic sheets – "refugee bags" as the Italians call them. Some had not eaten since Tuesday and small groups kept warm round fires made of planks torn from an abandoned warehouse. Many scrambled over the port walls and made their way into the town, despite police attempts to hold them back.

Some shivering refugees stopped motorists to ask if children could shelter from the cold in their cars. Others took over empty cattle trucks on a railway line. Italian radio said thousands of thefts had been reported in Brindisi, especially from food shops.

Caught unawares, both the Italian Parliament and the regional government of Puglia have been slow in setting up measures of resistance or assistance to cope with the exodus fromor the communist stronghold. "We want Italy to protect us. We are very hungry. They only gave food to women and children. I have had only water since yesterday," said a man aboard the 5,787-ton Tirana, one of the rusty, overcrowded ships that brought thousands of refugees from Albania this week.

Police put on plastic gloves when handling the crowd and some health workers wore face masks. Italian television quoted doctors as saying there was a strong risk of disease.

Italian navy aircraft searched for an Albanian fishing boat carrying 25 refugees that sent a distress signal during the night.

Thirty Albanians, mainly children and women, were stranded on Palagruza island in the Adriatic, an uninhabited island halfway between Yugoslavia and Italy, after a heavy storm blew them off course as they tried to reach Italy. Left without food and fuel, they were rescued by the lighthouse keeper of the island, an outpost of Yugoslav territorial waters.

Reports from Tirana say the situation is calming down. All Albanian ports are reported to have been declared military zones. However, this is not preventing the most determined to try to leave.

Yugoslav merchant boats destined for Albanian ports were ordered to delay departure yesterday as several others which tried to leave Albanian ports were forced by refugees to sail to Italy.

Yugoslavia is bracing itself for a flood of Albanian refugees after a group of some 600 arrived on Wednesday as part of a negotiated agreement between the two governments. The Montenegrin authorities say they expect 25,000 refugees, but those of Slav origin will have priority in gaining asylum. The Serbian president, Slobodan Milosevic, has appealed to Ramiz Alia, the Albanian president, to allow all Albanian citizens of Serbian extraction to leave.

Albanians who reached Belgrade this week said that Albanian frontier guards tried to stop them by shooting in the air, but the group put women and children forward and was allowed to cross the frontier.

Leading article, page 11

First aid: Italian Carabinieri helping an Albanian refugee taken ill on the dockside at Brindisi where more than 15,000 Albanians, fleeing their country by sea, have crowded into the port demanding food and shelter

Delors prepares to argue defence case

From George Brock in Brussels

JACQUES Delors will follow his appeal for a joint European defence policy by taking his case directly to President Bush. The European Commission's president will visit Washington next month to talk to an American administration hostile to the creation of any rival to Nato.

M Delors, who delivered a wide-ranging speech calling for pan-European defence in London on Thursday, acknowledges in private that events inside the EC are at best only inching in the direction he advocates. But he has long considered it his job to set distant EC goals, however improbable they may seem in present circumstances.

The defence debate will continue for most of this year with essentials settled in Washington, Bonn, Paris and London. M Delors can float ideas but is not a key player. He has nevertheless highlighted the shift towards integrating future European defence which took place just as Europe attracted criticism for a timorous and incoherent response to the invasion of Kuwait.

John Major and Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, will meet on Monday for the annual Anglo-German summit, which is to be the platform for a speech on European policy from the prime minister. EC foreign ministers meet on defence and foreign affairs on March 26.

On his American trip, M Delors will tax the Americans for giving mixed signals to Europe and repeat his assertion, made several times in the London speech, that European integration poses no threat to the Atlantic link.

Last month Washington dispatched a stern memo and an envoy to explain its arguments, stating that putting the nine-country Western European Union (WEU) under the EC umbrella would cut the United States out of Nato decision-making. Washington fears the creation of any group which could become a closed caucus for non-negotiable decisions in advance of Nato consultation and planning.

The attractions of beefing up the WEU for governments committed to the retention of Nato are that it might allow Germany to participate actively in Western defence. Herr Kohl is expected to propose next week that the German constitution should be changed to allow its soldiers to fight under the WEU. Creating any kind of European defence grouping also opens the possibility that France might return to full membership of Nato.

Delors: intends to tax US over mixed signals

● BONN: Members of the German government yesterday welcomed the idea of a common European defence policy proposed by M Delors (Ian Murray writes). Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, also looked forward to a much wider based European security system, which would include the Soviet Union.

In an article published today by the *Nordsee Zeitung*, he says that the democratic countries of Central and Eastern Europe, including the Soviet Union, must be involved in building a new joint security system.

Germany to seek Honecker handover

From Ian Murray in Bonn

THE German government is to step up pressure on the Soviet authorities to hand over Erich Honecker, the former East German leader, to stand trial for his part in killing the 190 people who died while attempting to escape across the border to freedom.

The supreme court in Berlin, which rejected the final defence appeal against his arrest warrant on Thursday, has called on the government to demand that Herr Honecker is released from the Soviet military hospital at Beelitz.

The base is sovereign Soviet territory and German police have no right to enter it to make an arrest.

The court has refused a defence plea for bail based on health grounds because it has been impossible to carry out a medical examination to determine if the sickly former leader, aged 78, is capable of fleeing the country. Herr Honecker therefore would be imprisoned awaiting trial if the Soviet authorities can be persuaded to release him.

This, however, is proving difficult. Officially, Soviet officials claim Herr Honecker is too ill to move from the hospital. Unofficially, there is bound to be concern in the Kremlin that if he were put on trial, he would reveal the extent of Soviet involvement in what happened.

US outfoxes 'bug' pest

From Martin Fletcher in Washington

FIVE and a half years after the half-completed new American embassy in Moscow was found to be riddled with Soviet listening devices, the Bush administration has produced a fresh plan for completing the building.

It is seeking congressional approval for leaving the flawed eight-storey structure standing but crowning it with a new, secure three-storey "top hat," constructed entirely with American labour and materials. The plan would supersede the last proposal which was to raze the structure to the ground and build a new one on the existing foundations with a physical "security shield" in between.

Calling the "top hat" idea an "innovative solution", Ivan Selin, Under Secretary of State for management, warned a congressional committee this week: "We cannot afford to wait any longer."

Part of the pressure is financial. America is presently paying more than $1 million a month in maintenance and other costs associated with the unused building. The last plan would have taken another five years to finish at a cost of about $300 million (£160 million) and Congress was balking at authorising what would be the most expensive US embassy in history. The "top hat" plan would cost up to $200 million and take just two years to complete.

Part of the pressure is political. Washington and Moscow were "90 per cent" of the way towards agreeing the "top hat" plan, said Mr Selin, but he told *The Washington Post* that conditions in Moscow were now so unpredictable that failure to move quickly could lead to indefinite delay.

The two countries have a strong interest in resolving this problem dating from the dying days of the Cold War.

Civil war truce for Salvador elections

San Salvador – Left-wing rebels in El Salvador have called a three-day truce for local and national assembly elections tomorrow, and in some areas are privately telling people to vote (Tom Gibb writes). But at the same time the rebels say the elections will not be free and fair and are not allowing polling in areas they control.

The rebels of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) have so far in the 11-year civil war disrupted elections which they regarded as part of a United States-inspired plan to isolate and destroy the left. But now both the rebels and the government claim to be the guarantors of democratic development.

As United Nations-sponsored negotiations to end the war reach a critical stage, this has become the main issue at stake in the conflict. The rebels want a purge of the US-backed army.

Pollution curb

Mexico City – Factories in Mexico City have been ordered to cut production by half after pollution hit emergency levels across the capital. Mexico's environmental agency SEDUE said. The order, which affected 60 factories, including a large petro-chemical refinery, came when ozone levels in northern Mexico City rose to more than three times the maximum acceptable level. *(Reuter)*

Deadly cough

Perth – Joseph William Taylor has been sentenced to life imprisonment for murdering his teenage brother for coughing too much. He told police he had been annoyed by the coughing for weeks and had been thinking for days about killing Dale, aged 16. His defence lawyer said that, although his client was not insane, he was mentally affected by the amount of drugs he had taken. (AP)

Outback attack

Sydney – Two Australian policemen were attacked by about 15 Aborigines wielding frozen kangaroo tails when they tried to remove an Aboriginal sitting in the middle of an outback highway, north of Alice Springs, trying to commit suicide. *(Reuter)*

BRUSSELS NOTEBOOK by George Brock

Sir Leon plugs into the power

Politicians used to come here to die or disappear. An appointment as a European commissioner may have been a dignified exit from political life, but it was a one-way trip. That image is out of date.

Leon Brittan's enemies may have assumed that, after he had been caught in the rotor blades of the Westland scandal, he had conveniently vanished. But he is in charge of competition policy and financial services here and, as 1992 draws closer, these are the directorates-general (or DGs) which ambitious young Eurocrats yearn to join. Sir Leon's officials can strike terror (well, anxiety anyway) in the boardroom of any company doing business in Europe, whether in Osaka or Ohio. In the spirit of this power, one of Brittan's teams has christened itself "the dawn raiders of DG4".

Sir Leon seems to love every minute of it. Ignoring the rules which are supposed to confine commissioners to their subjects, he delivers speeches almost every weekend in Britain on any "European" subject, which is to say anything he likes. He has clearly not abandoned ambitions in Westminster. But the next general election will be held before the remaining two years of his term are up. If there was a chance of the commission's foreign affairs portfolio next time round, Sir Leon might seek a second four-year term.

Both Sir Leon and Labour's appointee, Bruce Millan, favour a new plan to shrink the 17-member commission down to twelve people, confining the body to one commissioner per country. They are the only pair on the commission who both favour abolishing one of their jobs.

The community has produced some new nuts. Like a growing child, the EC likes measuring itself and has just issued a fresh version of the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics – or Nuts. With the addition of former East Germany, the community is now 343.6 million people. Both the land area and the population grew by around 5 per cent. If the 50,000 Eskimos of Greenland opt to rejoin the community, which they left over fishing rights deals in 1985, they would add .001 per cent to the population but double the EC's land area in one go. Whether or not the Eskimos should come back in from the cold was a key question in Greenland's general election this week.

Brittan: he is not willing to become a forgotten man

Elizabeth Guigou, the French minister for European affairs, was recently in Brussels for some fraught conversations about the completion of the single market in cars. The commissioners are running out of patience with highly protected French and Italian car makers. At one of these sessions, Mme Guigou was asked if her government would commit itself to the ultimate goal of a free market in cars, providing suitable transitional arrangements could be agreed.

There was a long pause. "We do not put the question like that," said the minister. Since this is precisely the answer which Britain has been giving for months to the ultimate-goal question on a single currency, this evasive formula is highly treasured by British officials. When French negotiators next ask the Brits to stop shilly-shallying and come clean on whether or not they will sign up to eventual monetary union, they can expect to hear Mme Guigou's words played back.

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Clifford Longley

Just cause to celebrate

A national thanksgiving service to mark the end of the Gulf war, whether in St Paul's cathedral or elsewhere, demands above all a unifying idea. Otherwise it will succumb to the fractiousness that made much of the religious contribution to the war debate so clumsy and unhelpful. The Bishop of Durham has already fired his warning shot by calling the very suggestion of such a service "obscene".

Deciding to have a service is one thing; deciding what sort of service is another. Even the most pro-war elements in the churches would not want to stage a merely jingoistic celebration of victory. But because most anti-war elements have already concluded, like the Bishop of Durham, that they must boycott such an event, the outcome would most probably be a service which merely reflected the majority view in the nation. That would be safe, and in its own way might even be inspiring, but holding up a spiritual mirror to an already widespread settled opinion is a minimalist solution, playing to the gallery.

Much dowsing through thousands of words is needed to find the spiritual and moral content which transcends the irritable disagreements between churchmen of recent months. But it is buried there, nevertheless, and it is substantial enough to build round it a national religious event. That common thread is the idea of a "new world order". Those with no knowledge of history will dismiss the phrase as a slogan recently coined by President Bush to cloak America's pursuit of its own interests, but it is older and more worthy than that. A new world order is what religious leaders talked and prayed intensely about before and after both world wars. It was strongly, if subliminally present, in the Falklands service in 1982. It is certainly worth gathering in St Paul's to pray for again.

> ‘The idea of a new world order is needed to replace the increasingly ambiguous concept of the just war’

Military men and women, who will want to be present, will find the concept fits their understanding of what they were asked to risk their lives for. Diplomats could come too: a religious celebration of their arts (with a hint of Christian uplift) would be timely.

Theologically, the idea of a new world order is needed to replace the increasingly ambiguous concept of just war. A genuine new world order is much more about avoiding war than fighting it, though the idea of war fought in the name of world order cannot, at least at this stage in history, be excluded. This is where the just-war theory broke down in the Gulf. The theory is entirely about conflict between two states or alliances, and assumes an otherwise lawless world indifferent to the outcome.

However, the whole world now has a stake in the outcome of every war, because of the existence of international law and the involvement of the United Nations (factors which can be fitted into a traditional just-war analysis only in an arbitrary way).

Such an approach may heal, but it might also point. No country needs a new world order as much as Israel, for instance, which will never be safe without one. But the first requirement of such an order must be to obey the rules: United Nations Security Council resolutions and Geneva conventions most especially.

The second requirement is that if any country breaks the rules, every other country must immediately interest itself in enforcement, until compliance is secured. A new world order is no soft option. It refutes de Gaulle's cynical remark that countries do not have principles, they only have interests.

That applies not just to countries. Pope John Paul II has made more than 50 references to the Gulf war since last August 2, and has mentioned Kuwait by name just once, one Vatican-watcher has calculated.

This was an extraordinary neglect for which there was no excuse, not even the perverse papal perception of the allied coalition: that Saudi Arabia denies religious freedom to Christians, Syria broke the Christian hold on government in the Lebanon, the United States is a paradise of unchristian hedonism and free thought, and that some of the displaced Palestinians and bombed Iraqis are Christians, but none of the Kuwaitis. That is not about having principles but about having interests — and prejudices. (Presumably the Pope dismisses the British, Christian or not, as mere cranks.) Rome is not going to lead a new world order, obviously.

So who else might lead? The danger of America doing so is that a nervous world will see it using the new order to throw its weight around and make a fast buck. The British, on the other hand, have a habit of lawfulness second to none, and out of principle not self-interest. The strongest criticism of the British role in the Gulf war was that we were reckless or naïve rather than mendacious, of which others were accused. Nobody in Britain thought Iraq should get away with invading Kuwait — for what Iraq had done was illegal.

The British helped conceive both the League of Nations and the United Nations, which were the concrete expression of those many pre- and post-war prayers. The creation of international enterprises dedicated to decency — the Commonwealth, the Anglican Communion — seems to be a British instinct. Any new world order is bound to have British fingerprints all over it. But the diffident British would prefer to be seen praying for it in public, actually putting it into practice behind closed doors.

None of the churches came out of the war covered with distinction. Their generals were all over the place or simply absent, and their NCOs and other ranks displayed a tendency to apocalyptic extremism or grumpy militarism, according to taste.

A national Gulf service which perpetuates such quarrelling would offer not prayer but mere self-satisfied and recriminatory noise. A Gulf service committing the British to work, pray and even die for law and order in world affairs, however, could move mountains.

Victory for munitions, not men

John Terraine defends General Haig's war record

As well as the war of attrition symbolised by the Somme and Passchendaele, Field-Marshal Sir Douglas (later Lord) Haig was responsible for the subsequent increase in effectiveness of the British Army and the unquestionable victory that it won in 1918. His reward has been vilification ever since. The latest essay in this unpleasing activity is *Haig's Command: A Reassessment* by Denis Winter (see page 19 of today's Saturday Review).

One product of this poisonous industry has been to distort the picture and impede understanding of the first world war itself. Haig is held up as a symbol of the futility of the war and the irredeemable stupidity of the manner in which it was conducted. One of the saddest results of this is the devaluing of the vast human tragedy it undeniably contained.

What the British Army experienced between 1916 and 1918 was what *every* heavily committed army experienced during that war; its losses were in no way unusual, and those armies which had the misfortune to be heavily committed between 1939 and 1945 had even worse experiences and far heavier losses. Warfare between great powers with mass populations, since the industrial revolution has led remorselessly to mass casualties and mass destruction. Haig's experience only showed that the British were not exempt.

To attempt to personalise the disastrous transactions of modern industrial war is foolishness. This is a bleak topic for those who prefer to trade in "Great Captains", subtle strategies or "thunderbolts of war", but at the heart of 1914-18 is technology, and the mass production of munitions. The Germans did not markedly complain about the *Materialschlacht* — "the war of material" — when they held the advantage, but as the sheer weight of allied technology overtook them, they rued the horror they had unleashed.

All this is fundamental background of the war that Haig played such a significant part in and no evaluation of his generalship (or any other commander's) is valid without taking this into account.

Even some of his most violent critics have acknowledged that Haig always had a lively interest in technical developments, and indeed, his whole war can be seen as a continual sequence of innovations: new weapons and counter-weapons, new techniques and counter-techniques. Probably the most spectacular was the tank (not so much because of what it actually did as what it became). Without even seeing one, Haig perceived the possibility of their decisive intervention in battle; he gave them their debut on the Somme and their first big occasion at Cambrai in 1917; they were a large ingredient in launching his final successes.

Under Haig, the numbers in the British Expeditionary Force increased enormously. His general headquarters had to match every branch of government for nearly two million men, while at the same time fighting a war in a foreign country. For all of this there were no blueprints, no previous experience to draw upon.

None of these basic characteristics of the war would have been different if Haig had simply not existed. That was the way it was. What we have to do is assess the performance of Haig and his men in the light of this reality.

There is, however, one further special point to note: Haig's war was a coalition war, and as the next generation also discovered, these have their special problems. From beginning to end, often to his deep disgust, the British were junior partners to the French, and though he did not like it, Haig understood this and accepted its implications.

Lloyd George called the war "the greatest chapter in our military history", and British soldiers too remained proud. The late Charles Carrington MC, who joined the army at the age of 17 in 1914 and served through the battles of the Somme and Passchendaele wrote in 1971, with undiminished pride: "In our thousand years of national history there has been one short period (1916-1918) when Britain possessed the most effective army in the world, and used it to win decisive victory." It is a strange thing to be vilified and blamed for, seven decades later.

John Terraine is the author of The Smoke and the Fire *(Sidgwick & Jackson).*

Back to protest politics

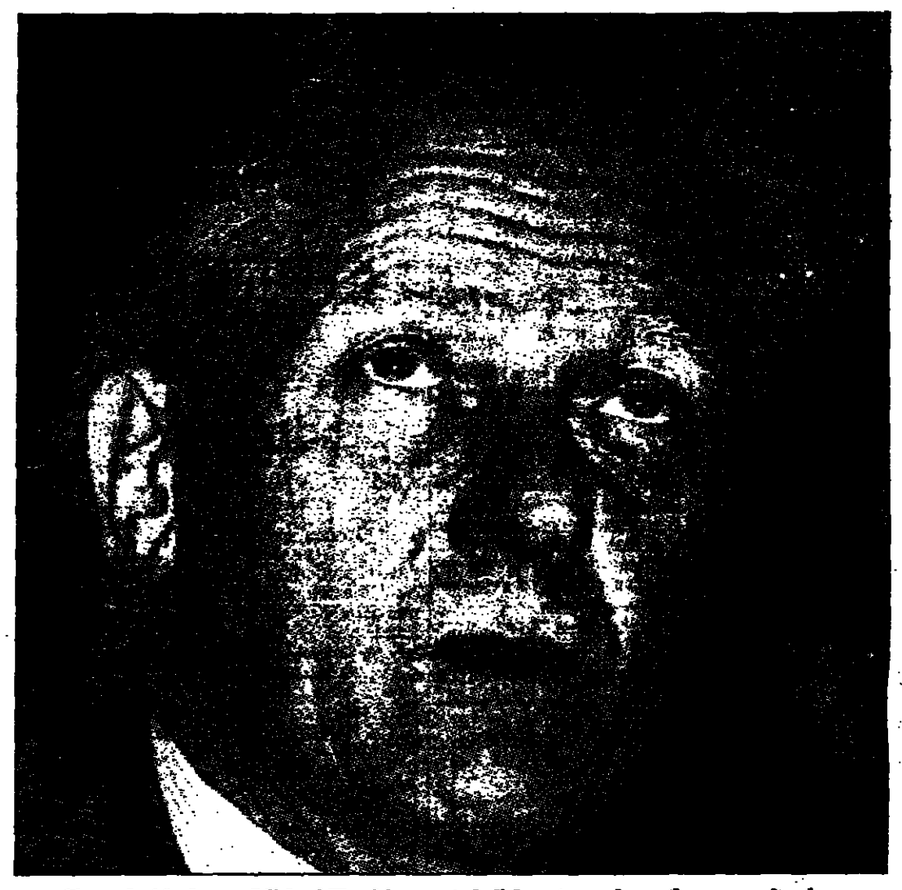
The Ribble Valley by-election turned on a single policy, the universally disliked poll tax, says Ivor Crewe

Ribble Valley was an intriguing as well as spectacular result. Its most puzzling aspect is the unprecedented discrepancy between the Conservative candidate's respectable standing in the polls and his humiliation in the by-election. When the Conservatives lost Mid-Staffordshire and Eastbourne last year, they were trailing Labour by more than 10 points in the polls, and Mrs Thatcher's popularity was at low ebb. This time, they are 5 per cent ahead of Labour and John Major is one of the most popular prime ministers since polls began.

Ribble Valley undoubtedly registers as a significant earthquake on the Richter scale of by-elections. The 25 per cent swing from Conservative to Liberal Democrat comfortably outclasses Eastbourne (20 per cent), Ryedale (19 per cent) and Brecon (16 per cent). Not since the SDP gained Crosby in November 1981 has a centre party made such deep inroads into the Conservative vote. But then the SDP caravan was rolling at full speed, its candidate was well-known (Shirley Williams), and its swing was exaggerated because it began from a smaller general election base. In both Ryedale and Eastbourne, the Liberals were able build on a traditional vote and local election successes. In Ribble Valley there were no such special factors.

But, claim the Conservatives, there was such a factor: the poll tax, in an area which has traditionally enjoyed low rates. The BBC/NOP exit poll reported that 85 per cent of all voters, including 72 per cent of the Conservative loyalists were "dissatisfied" with the government's handling of the poll tax; a mere 4 per cent of voters, and only 9 per cent of Conservatives, wanted to keep it. Probably no by-election has ever before turned as much on a single issue, and no government policy has been so universally disliked.

Yet this is not only a local factor. The national polls suggest the British electorate as a whole remains utterly unreconciled to the poll tax. When the bills fell on doormats in March 1990, Gallup found that opponents outnumbered supporters by 75 per cent to 21 per cent; last month, opponents outnumbered supporters by 73 per cent to 22 per cent.



Charged with change: Michael Heseltine must abolish, not repackage, the community charge

Moreover, although the slump in the Conservative vote was exceptional (second only to Richmond of all by-elections since 1979), it was hardly a freak. The Tories have now lost four by-elections in succession, three of them in normally safe seats, of which Ribble Valley was the 14th safest of all. They would probably have lost Richmond and Epping Forest as well had the Liberal Democrats and "continuing SDP" not squabbled and split the centre vote. Even allowing for the increased vulnerability of governments in modern elections, this is an unprecedented record of defeat.

Nonetheless, by-elections say less and less about the parties' national standing. Aided by constituency polls, an increasingly sophisticated electorate is turning by-elections into referendums or protest rallies on the burning issues of the day, rather than opportunities to register their party loyalties. As voters told the exit pollsters, they will return Ribble Valley to the Conservatives at the general election, when they weigh up the parties' relative fitness.

In the meantime, Ribble Valley sent the government a number of messages. First, the hoped-for Gulf factor has been as short-lived as the land offensive. As by-elections in the Falklands period showed, solidarity with the armed forces during hostilities is one thing, post-victory gratitude to the politicians quite another. Had the land offensive proved slower, the Conservatives might have won.

Secondly, a June election looks as though it would be foolhardy. No previous government has recovered within three months from such an electoral slump in its own strongholds. This year's local elections will probably scotch any remaining temptation. They exclude Scotland and London, where, in the light of last year's experience, the Conservatives might have performed relatively well. However, all the shire districts in which the whole council is elected together will be included, and in many of these the poll tax increases over the rates have been severe.

Moreover, the Conservatives will be defending the unexpectedly large number of seats the party won in 1987. Whatever the outcome of the poll tax review, Conservatives will find the local elections dispiriting.

The Ribble Valley result signifies less for either opposition party. One puzzle is why the instrument of anti-government protest in Mid-Staffordshire was the Labour candidate, while the Liberal Democrat played this role in Ribble Valley. In each constituency both opposition parties fielded competent mainstream candidates, and in each case they were in equal contention for the role of principal challenger at the beginning of the campaign.

The answer cannot lie in local polls, because the early ones in Ribble Valley put Labour second. Perhaps the shift reflects Paddy Ashdown's greater prominence and stature as a result of the Gulf war and the final laying to rest of the lingering disarray in the centre. Ribble Valley represents a reversion to normal protest politics after the quirk of Mid-Staffordshire.

The Labour party can afford to shrug off the third-place squeeze on its vote. It should be much more concerned by Gallup's report that despite pessimism about their personal economic prospects, voters still prefer the Conservatives to Labour by a wide margin as the better party for the economy.

The conflicting signals from Ribble Valley and the opinion polls suggest that on balance, voters are more likely to re-elect than replace the Conservatives, but only if the election is delayed and the poll tax is abolished. Not repackaged, revised or reduced, but killed.

The author is professor of government at Essex University.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

"Please help the RSPCA to fight the needless transport of live animals." I sat staring at the advertisement in the underground as Waterloo flashed by. This was a plea it would seem churlish to dispute.

But what does "needless" mean? We had reached Kennington as I reflected that the society does not campaign for vegetarianism, so the world it strives for must be one where slaughter houses are as close as practicable to the place where animals are raised. "As close as practicable." How close is that, I pondered as we pulled into the Oval? It depends (I concluded) on how localised a system of slaughter houses we could arrange. Is there any practical limit — a unit so small that nothing more localised could be envisaged? By the time we got to Stockwell, logic had carried me to the only possible conclusion to the RSPCA's argument.

The poster was advising us to eat our own pets.

At first I found that hard to live with. Turning the RSPCA's recommendation over in my mind, I looked for objections, trying to reason them through. None could be sustained. After all, what was I saying — but, rather than eat your own pet, it is better to eat somebody else's? Do we maintain that farm-raised animals are nobody's pets, inferring that an animal which nobody loves has less right to live than one which a human has chosen to cherish? No. We are not gods. Our affections cannot be the criteria. At Clapham North I concluded that the RSPCA was right and we ought to eat our pets. I alighted at Clapham Common to consider the practicalities over lunch.

The theory is challenging, but the application surprisingly straightforward. Dogs are apparently delicious. Paul Levy, an *Observer* food critic, tried dog in China and has described the experience approvingly in his book *Out to Lunch*. Eating dogs would lead to heightened interest in the breeds which yield the best cuts — "table dogs" — and whippets would decline. The criterion of edibility is at least as fair as whether their ears stand up. Crufts could add a "culinary" category, though if your dog lost, there would be no going back.

Rabbits we already eat. Guinea-pigs as dishes (scrumptious!) I have described in an earlier column. A brace of hamsters is an idea as mouth-watering as half a dozen fresh gerbils with a twist of lemon. I know someone who once had Kentucky Fried Mouse, by mistake, while "edible dormice" (which you need an agriculture ministry licence to trap) have been the subject of questions in Parliament. The Italians already eat songbirds. Tropical fish come into this category, too, and what about a bowl of goldfish lightly tossed in sesame oil over a hot griddle?

Cats present a problem. I understand that they are best curried, and often are. Or they can be presented in a sage and garlic sauce, on a bed of fluffy white rice. The whiskers should always be removed.

Nor should we ask only how to eat the pets we keep; but also how to keep as pets the animals we eat. Some people I know keep a pet sheep. She has her own place on the sofa, responds to commands, and (by comparison with cats or babies) her little droppings are a joy to clear up. In St John's Wood last week I saw a woman in high heels taking her pot-bellied pet Vietnamese pig for a walk. In Albania (where I went last autumn) they keep goats on the first floor balconies of their flats. Pheasants are already pets, and we only pretend they are wild to give the upper classes an illusion of adventure in their boring lives. Nor do I see the hen as inherently less appropriate to the drawing room than the Rottweiler. Anyone who can keep an Irish wolfhound in a maisonette could surely put up with a small cow in the bedroom?

One of the RSPCA's immediate concerns is the transport of British horses to France, to be eaten. Sadly, it is a truth of economics, but if there is a hungry Frenchman in one place and a redundant horse in another, no law on earth will prevent their converging. So can we not go with the grain of the market? Can we not eat our own horses, and invite the foreigners here? "The transport of live Frenchmen." Now who could object to that?

● *The result of the Ribble Valley by-election is not the only factor that may prompt John Major to rule out a general election in June. Could the cricket-loving prime minister really bring himself to declare polling day on Thursday, June 6, the start of the first test match against the West Indies? Thursday, June 20 is hardly better, being the first day of the second test. That leaves only June 27, in a peak holiday week, or June 13.*

Out of office politics

Even before the streets of Clitheroe resounded to Liberal Democrat cheers at Mike Carr's by-election triumph, Paddy Ashdown's MPs were engaged in an unseemly squabble about which Westminster office the victor of Ribble Valley should squeeze into.

No one wants to give up precious space. Offices are allocated after a general election, and winners of by-elections make their own arrangements with party colleagues. The only Lib Dem MPs with room to spare are Ashdown, Sir David Steel and Alan Beith. None so far has offered a desk.

The rumpus threatens to reopen old wounds with Dr David Owen's SDP. Much to the disgust of Ashdown's troops, the Owenites still cling to a palatial suite of offices, granted after the last election when the SDP was still regarded as a serious political party.

The Tories, in spite of losing four by-elections in a row, refuse to give up any of their offices. However, with no love lost between Ashdown and Owen, there is little prospect of an SDP offer. Owen has a big office all to himself, and in stark contrast to most other MPs, Rosie Barnes and John Cartwright also have their own rooms. "We may have to move out of our Whip's office in the Commons to another building, but we will certainly not be giving it to the Liberal Democrats. If we give the office to anyone, it would be the Scottish Nationalists, not Mike Carr," an SDP source says.

Carr is also without personal transport. On the night of his triumph a disgruntled voter sealed the locks of his yellow Bedford van with strong glue.

Written off

The Society of Authors has taken up the case of an unemployed writer who has been told she must put down her pen — even though her work goes unrecognised and unpublished — or lose her right to social security payments. The society has described the case of Joy Peach as "utterly dotty", and wants Tony Newton, the social security secretary, to intervene.

Peach, aged 57, has been told by a DSS tribunal that she is not entitled to income support because writing is regarded as remunerative work, even though she is not earning from it. She has even offered to confine her writing to evenings and weekends, but the authority is adamant she is ineligible. "If I were to stay in bed all day or slump in front of the telly, the state would support me. But if I persist in putting my time to good use, I could starve to death," she says. Last May, she applied for support after a £40 a week Enterprise Scheme grant expired. She lives from a bank overdraft and an occasional £10 from her mother's pension.

David St John Thomas, publisher of *Writers News*, which will campaign for Peach, says: "It is as nonsensical as saying you have to give up knitting, cooking or growing vegetables in order to qualify for social security." Arnold Wesker, the playwright, has more practical advice. "Until this idiotic rule is changed, Miss Peach should be pragmatic and lie."

Semiotics

Oxford dons are being driven to distraction by the inadequate road signs to the city of dreaming spires on the M40 from London to Birmingham. With academic precision, Angela Huth, the novelist whose husband is a don, calculates that after the first sign indicating that Oxford is straight ahead, motorists have a mere 14 seconds before a sign indicates the turnoff.

"If you are travelling at 70 mph in the middle lane, you have not got time to get across and off the motorway," says Huth. "One goes sailing on to Blenheim."

Luminaries such as as Sir Claus Moser, warden of Wadham College, and Candia McWilliam the novelist, have all overshot the filter lane and been sent to Blenheim. "We've twice missed the sign," says Huth. "I want to know what the transport ministry plans to do about it."

Historic reward

Eric Anderson, the headmaster of Eton, has repaid a 500-year-old debt by allowing TV cameras into the school for the first time in 25 years. After months of negotiations Simon Shore, the director, was granted permission to shoot *The Class of '91*, a Channel 4 documentary to be screened on Monday. An important factor was a debt Eton owed to Jane Shore, his ancestor and a mistress of Edward IV.

"After Henry VI was deposed and Edward became king, he wanted to close down all the institutions founded by Henry, including Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge," says Shore. "But Jane used her influence to persuade him not to. I reminded Dr Anderson that he owed a lot to my family." With due respect for history, Anderson let in the cameras.

● *Following the example of recession-hit restaurants offering cut price food and drink to attract custom, Diane Clelland, the actress and co-owner of Aunie's in Cleveland Street, London W1, has come up with a novel scheme that offers diners clairvoyant readings. Starting next month, astrologer Michael Colmer will provide personal charts for customers who eat at the restaurant. "Callers who telephone for a booking will be asked for the time, date and place of their birth," says Clelland. "After the pudding Michael will provide individual charts and give a clairvoyant demonstration." Perhaps he can advise on when the recession will end.*

NO VALE OF TEARS

The result of the Ribble Valley by-election means next to nothing. By-elections are displays of electoral infidelity and promiscuity. They are among the vacuities of political theatre, on a par with resignation honours lists and party political broadcasts. Certainly the Tories "might have expected" to hold such a normally safe seat, but such expectations at by-elections are foolish. As often before — most recently at Mid-Staffordshire last March and Eastbourne last October — loyal voters decided, for a multiplicity of reasons, to give the Tory government a rap over the knuckles. Protest votes at by-elections have become a ritual, a fidget of rebellion, between the grim general engagements every four or five years.

Ever since Orpington in 1962, when psephologists first detected the concept of the "third party squeeze", by-elections have indicated a dissatisfaction with sitting governments, usually to the benefit of whichever party stands most chance of unseating the favourite. Such floating votes normally return home at general elections, though where a centre party candidate is the victor, the eccentricity sometimes lasts for a couple of elections more. Most centre-party seats, especially those outside the Celtic fringes, were acquired in by-elections, usually from the Conservatives.

The size of the protest is an amalgam of factors barely if at all related to the national poll shares of any of the parties concerned. The reason is simple: voters are not involved in selecting a government or a prime minister. By-election results litter the electoral graph like random shot, falling well away from opinion poll or election trend lines. They can depend on the character of the candidates, a burning local issue, the identity of a "squeezable" third party (in this case Labour) and the movement of local opinion polls.

Any or all of these can distort the final result sufficiently to nullify all national trends. There will be much talk of "what Ribble Valley tell us about the timing of a general election". The answer is nothing, unless Tory managers panic. A coherent message about election timing must await further opinion polls and May's local elections. Anybody attaching significance to by-election results during Margaret Thatcher's period in office would have concluded that she could never win a general election.

The most that can be said for by-elections is that they indicate the second preferences of supporters of the governing party. Where they are Tories, this usually means a swing to Liberal, though in Mid-Staffordshire the Liberal was squeezed and Labour won. The Liberal gloom then was as unjustified as its elation today. In Ribble Valley, the Liberal Democrats had come second at the last two general elections and the squeeze was on Labour. Certainly "no Tory seat is now safe", but then no government seat is safe at a by-election. This matters in a hung parliament, but not now.

John Major might indeed have hoped for a resounding endorsement of his leadership, of his performance during the Gulf war, of his counter-inflationary policy. He might have hoped that voters would, by now, have grown used to the poll tax, as Kenneth Baker had promised they would when he was party chairman. Instead he has merely been told that government is a hard old slog and that even loyal Tories can sometimes be fickle.

Ribble Valley is also being regarded as the valley of death of the poll tax. If it really takes a by-election to convince the cabinet and parliamentary Conservative party to correct this terrible mistake, then Ribble Valley will indeed deserve a place in history; the more so if it persuades Mr Major to reject the "pain-free" options flitting round the cabinet table, take the short cut to sanity and reinstate the rates. But by-election upsets occurred before the poll tax was born and will continue after its death. Sensible politicians will not be moved by this minor turbulence in the soft vale of Ribble.

EUROPE'S BOAT PEOPLE

The Italian government's decision to prevent further Albanian refugees landing will dismay many who have watched the arrival at Brindisi of their ships, some almost capsizing, full of hungry and desperate fugitives chanting "*Viva Italia!*" The squalor and disillusionment which has followed recalls the Israelites' despair in the wilderness: "Would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt . . ." Throwing themselves on the mercy of their rich Italian cousins, these people risk their lives for freedom. They deserve better than to be forced to return to Europe's most despicable regime.

There must be sympathy, all the same, for the Italians struggling with the influx. This epilogue to the history of European communism is not of their making. The government of President Ramiz Alia is tottering, making ever-less-believable promises while resorting increasingly to force. Hence the flight from Durres, Albania's main port. This is not just a local Italian problem, but one for the entire European Community.

Britain and Italy's other partners should offer cash, supplies and medical help while individual applications for political asylum are considered. Under the 1951 United Nations convention on refugees, Rome is obliged to treat these people, most of whom are alleged to be economic migrants, as political refugees until each case has been examined on its merits. It has acknowledged this obligation, but only for those who have already arrived. Rome should accept yesterday's offer of help from the UN High Commission for Refugees, and heed its appeal to honour the convention.

Those, probably the majority, who are not political refugees in the strict sense required by law would doubtless be happy to disperse far and wide. Most Italians would probably prefer them not to establish themselves in "temporary" camps around Brindisi, since these are likely to become permanent; the likelihood of this seems to have prompted Rome's decision. There are, however, cogent tactical reasons for keeping most of the refugees, political and economic, near enough to the Albanian coast to influence events in the interior. Their very presence in camps would be a standing indictment of Mr Alia's regime. Whether or not that regime fails to achieve the rigged election result on March 31 which many Albanians fear, its collapse cannot long be delayed if the exodus continues. The emigration is a spasm in the death-agony. Its treatment by the Community as a special case is therefore warranted.

Generosity towards economic migrants, even fellow Europeans, cannot be extended indefinitely. Emigration will continue even long after communism's overthrow, because Albania is by far the poorest country in Europe. Albania's neighbours — Italy, Greece and Yugoslavia — will not tolerate permanent large-scale immigration. But they should accept it temporarily, in the knowledge that the replacement of Mr Alia's government is in their interests too.

For the present, conscience and realism are not at odds. Both dictate that Rome should not only accept the refugees, but, backed by the EC council of ministers, should use their presence as a lever to press Tirana to introduce democracy. "Interference in domestic affairs" is not a valid objection if Italy has tens of thousands of Albanians in its care and many more threatening to come.

Six centuries ago Durazzo was a thriving Venetian outpost. Today the same port, Durres, is under martial law. Italy ought not to wash its hands of a nation with which it has so much in common. Giulio Andreotti, the Italian prime minister, has a rare opportunity to help Albania. But repatriating these refugees against their will would leave a deep scar on his distinguished record.

CROWNING GLORY

The fun the French would have with "Bedroom-tax Riots in London" should be enough to persuade Michael Heseltine that he has backed another loser. His latest alternative to the poll tax is a property tax based on the number of bedrooms in each dwelling. He should have realised that the nation would simply cram itself into one room, instal electric train-sets in all the others, and abandon its *vie amoureuse*. And a tax on model railways, no doubt the idea he has in reserve to meet such objections, would need parallel registers and a complicated rebate scheme which would not justify the cost of collection. How many inches of toy platform equal one branch-line signalbox? This is absurd.

He should try a completely different approach. He should order his civil servants to stop inventing wild notions. Neither a lavatory-seat tax nor a suitcase-in-the-loft tax nor a herbaceous-border tax is going to save the party at the next election. What is wrong with the poll tax is not its name: otherwise the device of calling it the community charge would have done the trick. The real objection is that it is so boring. Why not keep the name, but make the tax more exotic?

The poll-tax deviser was in too much hurry. When he went to the dictionary he fastened on the first entry. "The human head", he saw: and all the government's miseries, flowing up to and beyond the Ribble valley, spring from that dull choice.

But read on down the definitions, Mr Heseltine; perhaps there lies life after death for the poll-tax. "The blunt end of the head of a miner's pick" is a poll, and might be taxable at a pinch. Not many in safe Tory seats would have to pay it, and the inevitable row with Arthur Scargill could flick the polls (plural noun, estimates of public opinion, taxable if all else fails) upwards.

Public opinion might not think fair a tax only on those called Mary, who are sometimes known as Poll or Polly. But so are parrots. A tax on parrots, with rebates for budgerigars for being mere parakeets? Or might local government be financed by a multiple poll-tax on mediocre Cambridge graduates — also called polls? Or if this be thought too narrow a base, why not tax the pate of the human head from which the hair grows, yet another meaning of poll?

That could give Mr Heseltine's famous poll an ache. Logic would dictate that the tax ought not to apply to those on whom hair refuses to grow at all. If they be excluded, however, extra might have to be extorted from those whose growth of hair is particularly copious. Apart from environment secretaries, such fecundity of growth is greatest among younger votes, who have already shown their willingness to take to the streets in poll-tax protests.

Perhaps the dictionary will not save Mr Heseltine in time. A history book might do instead. The last window-tax legislation expired only in 1851. A law is therefore already drafted. The Heseltine working party should reconvene at once to see what minor adaptations are needed — double tax for double-glazing? — before the solution is leaked. And the government would have saved itself from the otherwise inevitable: going back to the rates.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

End of Gulf conflict: the case for ringing the bells

From the Reverend Anthony Maggs

Sir, Next month, it seems, we are to have a victory parade and a service of thanksgiving. That will be followed by the Arms Fair (May 14-16) to be held in Birmingham. So unless we act now we shall be back in the old cycle of arms build-up leading to war. Now is the time for the triumphant allies to set binding limits to the kind of arms traffic we have seen and implicitly supported.

If we can persuade 27 nations to sign UN resolutions to evict an aggressor, we can surely galvanise enough support for a resolution ensuring that future aggressors are prevented from obtaining arms on the scale we have seen in Iraq.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY MAGGS,
Austin Canons,
12 Womersley Road, N8.
March 6.

From the Reverend Lord Wrenbury

Sir, To err is human, but to be continuously wrong is perverse and some might even say obscene. The Bishop of Durham, so pleasant to meet in a private capacity, continues to sow tares in public (report, March 4). One presumes that like everyone else he prayed for the victory of the allied forces and for the safe return of our servicemen. How then can he possibly object to public thanksgiving when that prayer is answered?

Does the bishop seek to rewrite the Scriptures so as to excise the songs of Moses and of Miriam (Exodus 15) and the song of Deborah (Judges 5). Does he consider the Exodus, with the consequent destruction of the Egyptian army in the Red Sea, a matter for repentance? Would he have espoused the cause of the Canaanites over Israel?

What is triumphalist in the pejorative sense about celebrating the victory of good over evil? It is not to ourselves but to God that praise is to be given, and who shall put on a sad face when he grants his merciful deliverance?

Let the bishop repent. Let the rest of us greet our returning heroes with tabrets, with joy and with instruments of music.

Yours faithfully,
WRENBURY,
Oldcastle, Dallington,
Nr Heathfield, Sussex.
March 5.

From the Reverend J R. Lowerson

Sir, The arguments over a national parade and thanksgiving service after the Gulf war are in danger of creating an artificial and harmful polarisation. In the past it was very common to give thanks to God for a victory *and* to express contrition for the shedding of blood.

This was often done in tangible form, such as when William the Conqueror built Battle Abbey after his success in 1066. There was no sense of hypocrisy in this but rather a recognition of the paradoxes involved. It is unfortunate that so many are assuming that we cannot continue to do this.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. LOWERSON,
9 Bradford Road,
Lewes, East Sussex.
March 5.

From Miss Tamara Stokes

Sir, Has Mr John Gummer (March 6) never attended a Commonwealth Day Observance at Westminster Abbey? If he had, he would surely know how hearteningly at one the different faiths are and how impressive a joint service can be. Next Monday is Commonwealth Day. Surely the Chapter Office could find him a seat?

Yours faithfully,
TAMARA STOKES,
25 Tufton Court,
Westminster, SW1.
March 7.

From Prebendary John C. de la T. Davies

Sir, Mr Adrian Fort's letter of March 6 ("General de la Billière's call for the ringing of bells will, I fear, fall upon deaf ears.") is sourly out of touch with the real world.

When General de la Billière spoke on February 28 I had already arranged that our bells should be rung that evening, that the celebration should include the firing of the bells 20 times to salute the general and his forces, and that there should be a large notice in the village centre to say what we would be doing. A crowd of ringers, including, of course, myself, all took part.

"Firing the bells" means causing them all to speak simultaneously, best done an even number of times. It causes an arresting sound, rough, tough, and sonorous; appropriate to thank God for our part in arresting the Iraqi evil.

As part of our future national celebration could we arrange for all our church bells simultaneously to do the same? If, say, the bells of St Paul's took the leading part, with their ringers shown on television for the firing and a little before it, we could have TV sets in all our church towers, and the conductor in St Paul's would be conducting all the bellringers of Britain. Then our people watching and listening on TV would hear their own church bells firing in synchrony with St Paul's on TV. It would be a marvellous act uniting the whole country in glorious thanksgiving to God.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN C. de la T. DAVIES,
Peterchurch Rectory, Hereford.
March 6.

From Sir John Herbecq

Sir, Mr Adrian Fort makes the common mistake of confusing "the synod chamber" with the spirit of the modern Church of England. A quarter peal was rung on the bells of Holy Trinity, Cuckfield, on Sunday last in thanksgiving for victory over the aggressor, and at the morning service there were no rows of empty pews but a church full of thankful worshippers.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HERBECQ,
Maryland, Ledgers Meadow,
Cuckfield, West Sussex.
March 6.

Art treasures that must be saved

From Lord Hamilton of Dalzell

Sir, A number of distinguished correspondents (March 5) have written to you about the tragedy which will take place if the Badminton Cabinet is allowed to leave the country.

Estate duty, under various guises, is now 80 years old. It is an equalising tax and, as time passes, attrition is making it more and more effective. Large houses and their art collections are the adornments of rich men and are liabilities until they are sold. They cost a lot of money to maintain and insure. The estates that often go with them have tended to shrink over successive generations and are now less able to support both property and owner.

There are schemes which acknowledge this problem but they do not extend to personal shareholdings and non-heritage possessions. You could be worth millions of pounds and yet be a penniless, unpaid "museum curator". It cannot be surprising, if the government spends the capital of the country's citizens with the object of making them poorer, that the country itself becomes poorer and its collections go abroad. The flow is likely to become a flood.

Yours faithfully,
HAMILTON of DALZELL,
Betchworth House,
Betchworth, Surrey.
March 5.

From Sir Hugh Leggatt

Sir, The Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art has recently highlighted the "lamentable statistics" which document the breakdown of our control system. The plain fact is that only relatively cheap works stand any chance of being retained.

In 1989-90 five works were kept at an average cost of under £300,000, but 10 were lost at an average approaching £1.5 million: in other words, the value of those lost was 10 times the value of those retained. The case for a special government grant towards the £8.7 million required by March 17 to save the Badminton Cabinet — that unique and magnificent national treasure — is overwhelming.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH LEGGATT,
17 Duke Street, St James's, SW1.
March 5.

From Mr Raymond Gubbay

Sir, The president of the British Antique Dealers' Association (March 5) is proud of the fact that his association has raised £15,000 so far towards the Badminton Cabinet appeal. I calculate that to work out at about £30 per member, from an association which claims to represent the upper echelons of the antiques trade in this country.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND GUBBAY,
176a High Street,
Barnet, Hertfordshire.

Remembering the servicemen who will not grow old

From Mrs V. Asquith

Sir, I was shocked and deeply disturbed to learn that Fusilier Conrad Cole, one of the nine young British soldiers who were killed by Allied fire in the last few days of the Gulf war, was only 17 years old: and his parents' only child (report, February 28).

Why is a boy of 17 sent to fight in war? And perhaps also in future, the Forces should discriminate and not send "only" children to war.

Yours faithfully,
VIVIEN ASQUITH,
44 Gilpin Avenue,
East Sheen, SW14.
March 3.

From Mr E. Halton

Sir, What was a boy of 17 doing in the Gulf expeditionary force? In 1939 Leslie Hore-Belisha, then Secretary of State for War, decreed that no one under 19 would go overseas with the BEF and I remember having to leave one of my section behind in Aldershot when we went to France. The same age limit applied in the 1914-18 war.

It was always thought that the Gulf war would be a short one, yet we find that the initial contingents included boys of 17.

Yours faithfully,
E. HALTON,
Beaumont, Chorleywood Road,
Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.
March 2.

From Mr Raymond Blackburn

Sir, In Korea, Attlee ordered that no one under the age of 19 years should go into battle.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND BLACKBURN,
50 Homefield Road, Chiswick, W4.

From Mr B. M Lahee

Sir, Apropos of Susan Ellicott's article ("The families that fight together", February 27), when, in the early months of the First World War, my father and all his eight brothers were serving overseas, my grandmother wrote to the War Office (I still have a copy of her letter) asking if one of them could be brought back to this country. So far as I know the choice was left to the authorities. In the event it was my father who was taken out of the trenches and brought back to serve the rest of the war in this country. Three of my uncles were killed and one was permanently disabled.

I have always been conscious how much more than most people my sister and I seemed to owe our lives just to chance.

Yours faithfully,
B. M. LAHEE,
11 Penlands Way,
Steyning, West Sussex.

From Mr Fred Wright

Sir, In mid-January, at the time that your Gulf war polls were showing a consistent 86 per cent in favour of it, an interesting paradox surfaced from an *Evening Standard* poll. Of the 710 young people questioned, aged between 18 and 25, only 107 were in favour of the war.

But perhaps not so puzzling after all; for it can only mean that a very large majority of young people are not in favour of easily sending their own kind to war, while the older age groups are more inclined to favour wars that leave them no nearer to it than the television set.

Yours sincerely,
FRED WRIGHT,
103 Chalet Estate,
Hammers Lane, NW7.

Lessons of war and the challenges of a lasting peace

From Mr Colin Lancaster

Sir, Given the sense of disgust at the biblical destruction of Kuwait it is not surprising to hear the cries for punitive reparations against Iraq (e.g., Mr Hart's letter, March 4). These should be resisted.

The Iraqi people do not live in a democracy. They have no say in the political or moral complexion of their leaders. Succeeding generations of Iraqis should not be expected to suffer for Saddam's crimes.

Yours faithfully,
C. LANCASTER,
Milestones, 2 Rupert Road,
Ilkley, West Yorkshire.
March 4.

From Mr Hugh Hanning

Sir, If there were, as there should be, a Blinding Glimpse of the Obvious department in Whitehall (BGO/Ops), it would be working on ways to relate the surplus logistic capacity in Saudi Arabia to the deficit logistic capacity confronting the voluntary agencies in the African famine, just across the Red Sea.

It cost so much to move the trucks and other thin-skinned vehicles to the Gulf that experts are seriously doubting whether it is worth a second bill to bring them back again. Bedford trucks are natural workhorses for relief operations and Riyadh is less than 700 miles from Port Sudan.

I understand from military planners that, while most of the Royal Corps of Transport drivers will want to get home, on past experience 10 per cent, some 400, would probably volunteer for this work if a policy decision was taken. For good measure, REME repair units would accompany them.

The other half of the transport problem, according to the voluntary agencies, is getting the food from Europe to the Red Sea. Here BGO/Ops would recommend using some of the shipping heading for the Gulf — past Port Sudan — to collect the rest of the equipment there.

There is going to be a lot of spare capacity. Treasury "full costs" should be waived, as per the rules where matters of life and death are concerned.

The feasibility of this proposal is confirmed by your remarkable report from Washington today ("Army battles flood of surplus supplies").

Yours etc.,
HUGH HANNING (Chairman,
Footnell Group on Disaster Relief),
18 Montpelier Row, SE3.
March 8.

From Mr N. R MacNicol

Sir, After the performance in the Gulf war by the Challenger 1 tank ministers are expected to make early moves over the question of whether it should be replaced by Challenger II or by the Abrams M1A1 (report, March 4). The outcome must now be clear — neither.

Our tank factories should now be converted to produce the Apache helicopters or a European equivalent. As the Polish cavalry had their horses shot from under them, now the Iraqi tanks have gone the same way. Let the cavalry take to the skies.

Yours faithfully,
N. R. MacNICOL,
9 Church Lane, Greetham,
Oakham, Rutland.

From Mr J. W. Saunders

Sir, Martin Jacques's list (March 6) of the "political agenda of the nineties" has a depressingly old-fashioned ring. I quote: "social justice, a new collectivism, a new international order, and the problem of an overweaning (*sic*) American military power". Unless Labour is weaned into objective reality it cannot prosper.

The United States leadership has transformed the whole scene. Its diplomacy at the United Nations and military might on the Gulf battlefield are totally unlike the picture painted by inveterate anti-Americans. The determination to get troops home, their job done; the sudden peace depriving critics of any charge of overkill; the firm support for the United Nations, these are breathtaking policies of the nineties.

We are in the age of the quiet thinking men: Bush, Gorbachev, Major. Any international order is dependent now on the continued success of the US and its allies.

Yours respectfully,
J. W. SAUNDERS,
17 Benton Road,
Middlesbrough, Cleveland.
March 6.

From Lieutenant-Colonel C. P. Price (retd)

Sir, It did not require the reaching of the conclusion that the use of military force was unavoidable for the Belgian government to grant the request to sell ammunition to Britain, nor would that sale have meant that such force was, or would become, unavoidable.

Further the Belgian Ambassador (March 6) implies that his government later reached the conclusion that military force was unavoidable; but the list of action taken by the Belgian government, under the authority of Nato and the Western European Union rather than in support of the United Nations and the Security Council resolutions, does not justify the remark that Belgium has been "at the side of the forces of the allied coalition" and reminds one of Dr Johnson's letter to Lord Chesterfield about a patron claiming credit for support which had not been given.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER PRICE,
1 Sycamore Close,
Sixpenny Handley, Dorset.
March 6.

From Mr M. F. Cullis

Sir, Lord Kennet (March 7) recommends that President Bush and his Allies seek to build a "golden bridge" after the Gulf war, invoking the example of Kennedy after the Cuban crisis. But a golden bridge to whom? To Saddam Hussein? Is that really what he means?

Yours etc.,
M. F. CULLIS,
County End, Bushey Heath,
Hertfordshire.
March 7.

From Mr M. G. Griffith

Sir, I told my six-year-old son that we had won the Gulf war. What is the prize, he asked. I was at a loss; please help.

Yours faithfully,
M. G. GRIFFITH,
10 Gorst Road, SW11.
March 7.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

Hospital slopping-out

From the Chairman of the Mental Health Act Commission

Sir, In his report on the *Prison Disturbances April 1990* (details, February 26), Lord Justice Woolf regards the degrading process of slopping-out as the second most destructive feature of the prison system, after overcrowding. He recommends that all prisoners should be provided with integral sanitation, and that it should be provided not later than February 1996.

The Secretary of State for the Home Department, Mr Kenneth Baker, capped this move towards the eradication of a nauseous and uncivilised practice by announcing in Parliament the ending of slopping out by December 1994.

May one ask the Secretary of State for Health if he would emulate his ministerial colleague by making a similar commitment in relation to the special hospitals? Currently about half the total population of 1,600 patients in Rampton, Broadmoor and Ashworth do not have proper sanitary provision.

Yours faithfully,
LOUIS BLOM-COOPER,
Chairman,
Mental Health Act Commission,
Maid Marian House,
56 Houndsgate, Nottingham.

The eyes have it

From Mrs Margaret Wiedemann

Sir, The social, moral and perhaps even political significance of spectacles (March 5) is that they are associated with earnestness. The term "bespectacled" may be used with mock-formality to imply misplaced earnestness, as in the case of Billy Bunter, the bespectacled Owl of the Remove, and his vain hopes of receiving a postal order.

Some years ago I used the word in this discriminatory sense and was accused, I think fairly, of being a "spectacclist".

Yours faithfully,
MARGARET WIEDEMANN,
18 Carnarvon Road, Redland,
Bristol, Avon.

From Mr Gershon Ellenbogen

Sir, When in practice at the criminal Bar, I recall that some of my colleagues, more prone to the peremptory challenge of jurors than I ever saw fit to be, regarded spectacles as indicative of intelligence and respectability, as much to be feared as the wearing of a tie or sober suit, or the carrying of a serious newspaper.

I am etc.,
G. ELLENBOGEN,
9 Montagu Square, W1.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 8: Today The Duchess of York visited Fallingbostel in Germany to meet the families of Servicemen presently serving in the Gulf.

Her Royal Highness met families of 1st Battalion, The Staffordshire Regiment (The Prince of Wales's) of which The Duke of York is Colonel-in-Chief. Later The Duchess of York met families of other Regiments.

Mrs John Spooner and Captain Alexander Baillie-Hamilton were in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 8: The Prince Edward, Chairman of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, this evening attended a concert given by Mr Nigel Kennedy for the families of Service personnel serving in the Gulf in Dortmund, Germany Lieutenant-Colonel Sean O'Dwyer and Mrs Richard Warburton were in attendance.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 8: The Princess Royal this afternoon attended a reception given by the Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit and the Employment Department at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Birmingham and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the West Midlands (the Earl of Aylesford).

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 8: The Princess of Wales attended a lunch for the National Foster Care Association and the Thomas Coram Foundation for Children, at the Marriott Hotel, Grosvenor Square, London W1.

The Hon Mrs Vivian Baring and Squadron Leader David Barton, RAF, were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 8: The Duke of Gloucester, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Pioneer Corps, today visited Bicester Garrison where His Royal Highness met families of 23 Group Royal Pioneer Corps who are presently serving in the Gulf and Staff of the Command Ordnance Depot.

The Duke of Gloucester was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Oxfordshire (Sir Anthony Ponsonby, Bt).

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 8: The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, was this morning present at Royal Air Force Brize Norton, Oxfordshire, for 'The Reception of Those Who Gave Their Lives For Their Country In the Gulf'.

Captain the Hon Christopher Knollys was in attendance.

Prince Edward celebrates his birthday tomorrow.

Anniversaries

Today: BIRTHS: Amerigo Vespucci, explorer, Florence, 1451; Honoré Mirabeau, statesman, Bignon, France, 1749; Joseph Franz Gall, anatomist, founder of phrenology, Tiefenbrunn, Austria, 1758; William Cobbett, essayist and politician, Farnham, Surrey, 1763; Taras Shevchenko, poet, Ukraine, 1814; Ernest Bevin, foreign secretary 1945-51, Winsford, Somerset, 1881; Victoria Sackville-West, novelist and biographer, Knole Castle, Kent, 1892; David Smith, sculptor, Decatur, Indiana, 1906; Samuel Barber, composer, West Chester, Pennsylvania, 1910.

DEATHS: David Rizzio, favourite of Mary Queen of Scots, murdered, Edinburgh, 1566; Jules Mazarin, cardinal, statesman, Vincennes, France, 1661; Arnold Toynbee, social philosopher, London, 1883; William I, German emperor 1871-88, Berlin, 1888; Frank Wedekind, dramatist, Munich, 1918.

More than 60 people were killed in storms over southern England, lasting until the 13th, 1891.

Tomorrow: BIRTHS: William Etty, painter, York, 1787; Tamara Karsavina, prima ballerina, Leningrad, 1885; Arthur Honegger, composer, Le Havre, 1892.

DEATHS: John Stuart Bute, 3rd Earl of Bute, prime minister 1762-63, London, 1792; Muzio Clementi, pianist and composer, Evesham, 1832; Tara Shevchenko, poet, Ukraine, 1861; Giuseppe Mazzini, Italian patriot, Pisa, 1872; Sir Charles Thomson, naturalist, Bonsyde, Lothian, 1882; Charles Frederick Worth, fashion designer, Paris, 1895; David Beatty, 1st Earl Beatty, admiral of the fleet, London, 1936; Mikhail Bulgakov, dramatist and novelist, Moscow, 1940; Jan Masaryk, statesman, Prague, 1948; Frank O'Connor, short story writer, Dublin, 1966; Konstantin Chernenko, general secretary of the Communist Party of the USSR 1984-85, Moscow, 1985.

The Prince of Wales (Edward VIII) married Princess Alexandra of Denmark, 1863.

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr Bill Beaumont, rugby player, 39; Dr M.G. Brock, warden, St George's House, Windsor Castle, 71; M André Courreges, fashion designer, 68; Sir Roualeyn Cumming-Bruce, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 79; Mr Bobby Fischer, chess player, 48; Mr John Golding, trades unionist, 60; Major-General J.P. Groom, former director-general, Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, 62; Professor Sir Donald Harrison, laryngologist and otologist, 66; Dr T.L. Johnston, former principal and vice-chancellor, Heriot-Watt University, 64; General Sir Frank King, 72; Sir Norman Lindop, former principal, British School of Osteopathy, 70; Mr R.G. Martin, company chairman, 70; Sir Ronald Melville, civil servant, 79; Mr Peter Quennell, writer, 86; Professor K.E. Robinson, former vice-chancellor, Hong Kong University, 77; Lord Thurlow, 79; Professor Sir David Weatherall, haematologist, 58.

TOMORROW: Sir Lawrence Airey, former chairman, Board of Inland Revenue, 65; Sir Robert Bellinger, former president, National Savings Committee, 81; Air Chief Marshal Sir Brian Burnett, 78; Mr Paul Condon, chief constable, Kent, 44; Mr Fou Ts'ong, concert pianist, 57; Sir Richard Francis, director-general, British Council, 57; Sir Angus Fraser, former chairman, Board of Customs and Excise, 63; Dame Margaret Fry, chairman, National Union of Conservative and Unionist Associations, 60; Rear-Admiral Sir John Garnier, 57; Sir Samuel Goldman, civil servant, 79; Sir Charles Groves, conductor, 76; Sir Charles Hardie, chartered accountant, 81; Lord Havers, 68; Mr Hugh Johnson, wine expert, 52; Lieutenant-General Sir John Learmont, 57; Mr Michael Montague, former chairman, English Tourist Board, 59; Mr G.D.W. Odgers, former group managing director, British Telecommunications, 57; Sir Michael Straker, chairman, Northumbrian Water Authority, 63; Mr Peter Wormald, Registrar General for England and Wales, 55.

Dinners

Cambridge University Inner Temple Society
The Lord Chancellor was the principal guest and speaker at a dinner of the Cambridge University Inner Temple Society held last night at Peterhouse College. Miss Hannah Brown, president, was the host. Among others present were:
Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, Mr Justice Fenton, Mr Justice Schiemann, Mr Justice Hidden, Mr Richard Southwell, QC, Mr Roger Toulson, QC and Captain P Y Sheehan.

Cordwainers' Company
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Sheriffs, was the guest of honour at a past Wardens' dinner of the Cordwainers' Company held last night at Law Society's Hall. Mr Michael Uren, Master, presided, assisted by Mr Jeremy Skinner, Mr Paul Mainzer, Mr John Rubinstein and Mr Brian Pask, Wardens.

Institute of Marine Engineers
Lord Sterling of Plaistow and Vice-Admiral Neville Purvis, Chief of Fleet Support, were the guests of honour at the annual dinner of the Institute of Marine Engineers held last night at Grosvenor House. Rear-Admiral M.A. Vallis, president, presided. Among the other guests were:
The High Commissioner for Nigeria, the Ambassador of Pakistan, the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization, the Director-General of the Engineering Council and the Chairman of Lloyd's Register of Shipping.

Montgomeryshire Society
The Bishop of Llandaff and Mr Edward Haynes, President of the Montgomeryshire Society, were the principal speakers at the annual dinner held last night at the Bonnington Hotel, London.

Service dinners

Royal Navy Supply Branch
Rear-Admiral Robin Musson presided at a dinner given by senior officers of the Supply Branch of the Royal Navy last night at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, to mark the retirement of Admiral Sir Brian Brown and Rear-Admiral David Allen.

Oxford University OTC
General Sir John Chapple, Chief of the General Staff and Honorary Colonel, Oxford University Officers' Training Corps, Lieutenant-Colonel G.F. Wheeler, RTR, Commanding Officer, the Officers and Officer Cadets of Oxford University OTC held their annual dinner last night at Keble College, Oxford. The senior guest was Lieutenant-General Sir Richard Swinburn, and other guests included senior members of Oxford University.

Appointments

Latest appointments include:

Commandant Anne Spencer to be the Director, Women's Royal Naval Service, from March 12.

The following to be members of the Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Legal Education and Conduct, under the chairmanship of Lord Griffiths:

Mrs Liliana Archibald, Professor Richard Card, Judge Gower, QC, Mr Eric Hammond, Mr Brian Harvey, Mr John Hosking, Mr Pastrick Lefevre, Mr Luke March, the Rev Dr Colin Morris, Dr Claire Palley, Ms Usha Prashar, Mr Nicholas Purnell, QC, Mr Peter Scott, QC, Mr Graham Smith, Mr David Ward and Mr David Wilkins.

The following to be new members of the Authorised Conveyancing Practioners' Board, from April 1, under the chairmanship of Mr John Sadler:

Mr Alan Brakefield, Ms Tamara Goriely, Mr Alan Mills, Ms Kate Mortimer, Ms June O'Dell.

OBITUARIES

HARRY CHANDLER

Harry Chandler, holiday tour pioneer, died on February 23 aged 77. He was born on April 20, 1913.

HARRY Chandler began taking people abroad in the 1930s on accompanied holidays, the precursor of the modern package tour. As a result he made his fortune. He went by train with his holiday-makers to the country they were touring, then pedalled by bicycle ahead of them to each place they were to visit to ensure all was well, and they followed by taxi. Chandler remained an innovator, and was chairman of the Tour Operators' Study Group, originators of the bonding scheme, which ensures that virtually every passenger carried out of Britain on package holidays will not lose his money if a company collapses.

Chandler began life as an office boy in the City of London and got the travel bug as a result of his firm being in the business of shipping freight. His first trip abroad was on one of its ships to Hamburg. When war broke out, Chandler, who went to the Grove School in Stratford East and night school, had to abandon the business he began in the 1930s. He served in the Royal Engineers, rising from the ranks to captain, and in military intelligence when the war ended and the reconstruction of West Germany began.

In austerity Britain in 1947, when a break at the seaside was the most the average holiday-maker aspired to, Chandler had a list of his former military colleagues and sent them a leaflet offering a 15-day, 10-guinea trip to Switzerland. The 500 holiday makers a year who went with Chandler post-war have now risen to 30,000, and the secret of his appeal was that his business remained small enough to provide a personal service. Unlike most travel firms, Chandler never advertised or used a travel agency. Instead he relied on personal recommendation and sent out brochures for his firm, The Travel Club, from its offices in Station Road, Upminster, and waited for the bookings to arrive. The firm, which he ran with his wife Rene, his long-standing business partner, is also small enough for him to have dealt with any trouble as soon as the first signs appeared, in the tradition of his pre-war enterprise; he liked to retain the hands-on feel of the business. Profits were good partly because the Chandlers did not have to pay out agents' commissions. The company has concentrated almost entirely on European destinations.

He was a founder member and, from 1969 to 1979, chairman of the Tour Operators' Study Group, then its life president, and could talk to retail agents in forthright terms others might shun for fear of losing goodwill, and more importantly, money. The study group represents 80 per cent of package holidays originating in the United Kingdom. Bonding emerged from a meeting of founder members in 1969. Chandler was the initiator and first president of the International Federation of Tour Operators, comprising tour company associations throughout Europe which take abroad some 40 million passengers a year.

Extrovert and enthusiastic about all to do with tourism, Chandler had the personality to break down barriers, and the secret of his success was his vision, right from the start, of giving the chance of travel to as many people as possible.

The tourism he encouraged led to his being honoured in Italy, Portugal, Spain and Austria where he was given the freedom of the town of Seefeld, one of his first post-war destinations. Loyalty was one of his most endearing traits. The company still uses the same hotel there because it gives value for money. He kept his 1969 Jensen car (number-plate HC1000), but his lifestyle changed even if he remained the old Harry Chandler at heart. With homes in Essex, Mayfair and the Algarve, much of the year was at one time spent travelling and he and his wife seldom had time to use their 40 ft yacht moored at Burnham-on-Crouch. He enjoyed the fruits of his hard work. He said: "Money enables you to buy lobster in a restaurant. But I still resent what it costs."

He is survived by his wife and son, Paul.

HENRY RISHWORTH

Henry Richard Rishworth, CBE, surgeon, died on February 14, aged 100. He was born in the military cantonment of Bangalore, India, on February 8, 1891.

DICK Rishworth, in addition to his skill as a surgeon, was a man of exceptional energy and organising ability. A streak of marked stubbornness enabled him invariably to accomplish what he sought, but his persuasive arguments were laced with endearing charm and humour.

His sense of humour, coupled with an excellent memory, made him an entertaining raconteur and conversationalist. Visitors from many parts of the world enjoyed stimulating discussions, and were kept on their toes by his acuity, which was evident until the end of his life. His entreaties: "Tell me more, tell me more," revealed his zestful curiosity about all subjects, not least about people, and he enjoyed the refreshing candour of children.

His book on the medical services of railways in developing countries was widely used abroad. He was a founder member of The Royal College of General Practitioners, a liveryman of The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries, a Freeman of the City of London, and a life member of The Royal Institution.

Educated in Bangalore and Rangoon, Rishworth obtained a scholarship from Calcutta university and in 1909 became an indentured pupil in the Indian medical department. During his training he was awarded two gold medals. Throughout the first world war he served in the Dardanelles, East Africa, Egypt and the Persian Gulf, and in 1918 was given a commission in the Indian Medical Service. After a period in Sidi Bishr he was sent on special duty to Constantinople, evacuating Russian refugees and later the British from Ismid on the advance of Kemal Pascha in Asia Minor.

On demobilisation he entered Charing Cross hospital, London, and at the same time was acting divisional surgeon at Scotland Yard. He returned to India in 1923. For his services as district medical officer at Bhusaval, and especially for his work in establishing a small civil hospital, he was appointed OBE in 1925, later advanced to CBE for his public services in Bombay.

After the second world war Rishworth was asked by the Foreign Office to go to Baghdad as director of medical services, Iraq State Railways. Subsequently, the Nigerian government requested him to report on the medical services of the Nigerian railways. He remained their medical adviser in London into his ninth decade.

Accustomed to a comfortable lifestyle overseas where he enjoyed prestige and honour, Rishworth nevertheless adapted with remarkable but characteristic facility to domesticity in his small London flat where he lived in retirement on his own until he was 96. At the age of 80, following the death of his wife, he enrolled for courses in sculpture, watercolour and oil painting and was prolific in his output.

He married Elizabeth Dawson Moray in 1918. They had two sons, the elder of whom was killed in the RAF in 1941. He is survived by his younger son.

JOHN WRIGHT

John Wright, MBE, puppet master, died on March 4 aged 84. He was born on October 7, 1906.

JOHN Francis Wright, a puppeteer of wide influence, founded the Little Angel Marionette Theatre in 1961 which as well as being a centre of performance has provided a focus of training for puppetry and attracted students internationally.

He was born in South Africa, and while studying at the Central School of Art and Design in London he saw a performance by Podrecca's Piccoli, an Italian marionette variety troupe. This inspired him to take up work with puppet theatre on his return to South Africa. After the war he came to England and set up a workshop and studio theatre in Hampstead Hill Gardens, under the auspices of the Hampstead Artists' Council. In 1953 he relinquished this theatre and set off on an extensive tour with his puppets through Europe and southern Africa.

On his return in 1959 he was convinced that he must obtain a permanent theatre as a base for his work if the artistic possibilities of the marionette were to be fully realised. He found the ruins of a bomb-wrecked temperance hall in Islington, north London, near the once-famous Angel coaching inn, and began to restore it as a puppet theatre to which he gave the name the Little Angel.

The Little Angel Theatre opened in 1961, and has remained open for regular performances ever since. It seats 100 people, has provided an introduction to theatre for several generations of children, and is a centre for the development of the art of puppet theatre. Productions have ranged from pieces for children, like *The Little Mermaid* from Hans Andersen, to Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale*, given its first performance at the Queen Elizabeth Hall. A puppet opera, *Philemon and Baucis* by Haydn was performed at the Barbican in 1989 and Channel 4 broadcast last year two other operas, Satie's *Geneviève de Brabant* and Stravinsky's *Renard the Fox*.

The early productions were given with string marionettes but Wright later developed the use of rod puppets and shadow figures to provide examples of the full range of puppetry. Many students in puppet theatre began their careers at the Little Angel, and Wright was always generous in inviting them to perform their own productions, as he was in inviting foreign puppeteers to appear. The company has toured the United States (1984), China (1986), Malaysia and Japan (1987).

As a wood carver his work was usually marked by a smooth tranquillity that ultimately owed much to the native African tradition, but when required he could produce folk-art robustness or grotesque fantasy. His productions were always beautifully lit and carefully composed, owing much to his personal enthusiasm for ballet. He was greatly helped in his work by his second wife, Lyndie, who is carrying on the work as director of the theatre.

She survives him with a son and daughter of their marriage.

CASIMIR LEWY

Casimir Lewy, philosopher, has died aged 71. He was born on February 26, 1919.

CASIMIR Lewy was a philosopher of meticulous scholarship and independence of mind and an exceptionally effective teacher. Having received his early education in Warsaw, he read for the moral sciences tripos at Trinity College, Cambridge and obtained his BA in 1939. He carried out research in philosophy at Trinity for the next six years, receiving his PhD in 1943, and between 1945 and 1952 was lecturer in philosophy at Liverpool university.

Apart from that period and two interludes as a visiting professor, at the University of Texas at Austin (1967), and Yale University (1969), his academic career was spent in Cambridge. He returned to Cambridge as lecturer in philosophy in 1952, became Sidgwick lecturer in 1955, a fellow of Trinity in 1959, and reader in 1972. In 1980 he was elected a fellow of the British Academy.

His main contribution was in philosophical logic, and in particular on the concepts of meaning, necessity and logical consequence. His work in these areas led to his *Meaning and Modality* (1976). This distinguished book is probably appreciated best by those who attended the course of lectures from which it grew, and who thus saw its thought in the making. This course, which was given for many years, became something of a cult among discerning undergraduates.

G. E. Moore was the main influence on him and after his death, Lewy edited for publication his *Commonplace Book 1919-1953* (1962), and his *Lectures on Philosophy* (1966). He also edited two posthumous works of C. D. Broad, his *Leibniz* (1975), and *Kant* (1978).

Lewy's voice (he retained a strong accent from his Polish youth), his gait and manner were highly distinctive; with his humour, his occasional anger, his capacity to dramatise even the driest point of logic, and the intensity he lent to whatever he did, they made him a memorable figure. He is remembered more keenly still by those who knew also, and benefited from, his patience, benevolence and loyalty.

He leaves his widow, Eleanor, and three sons.

Luncheon

Cooks' Company
At a luncheon held at Innholders' Hall on March 1, and presided over by the Master, Mr C.E. Messent, the Cooks' Company presented the annual prizes for the competitions it sponsors. The luncheon was attended by representatives of college and services catering schools. Mr R. Perry, of Ealing College, and Mr T.J. Tawney, of the City and Guilds of London Institute, spoke.

Professor Otto Skutsch

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Professor Otto Skutsch, D Litt, FBA, will be held at The University Church of Christ The King, Gordon Square, London, WC1, on Friday, May 31, 1991, at noon. Would those wishing to attend please notify Miss R. Shaw, University College London, Gower Street, London, WC1E 6BT.

Abingdon School

Mr J.L. Thorn has succeeded His Honour Judge P.W. Medd as Chairman of Governors. His election was announced at the School's Annual Foundation Dinner on Friday, February 15, when the guests included Mr Crispin Gascoigne, High Sheriff of Oxfordshire, and Mr Duncan Stewart, Principal of Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.

Reception

St Anne's School, Windermere
The Right Hon the Baroness Young was the principal guest at St Anne's School, Windermere, on Friday evening. She was welcomed by Mr Michael Hawkins, Headmaster.

Gray's Inn

Professor Krzysztof Skubiszewski, the Polish Foreign Minister, and Justice David H. Souter, Associate Justice of the American Supreme Court, have been elected honorary masters of the bench of Gray's Inn.

Tomorrow's royal engagement

The Princess Royal, as President of BAFTA, will present the craft awards at St David's Hall, Cardiff, at 5.10.

Church services for tomorrow

Fourth Sunday in Lent

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 M, Responses (Rose), Jackson in G. Short Service (Gibbons), Miserere mei (Byrd): 11 S Euch & Confirmation, Missa Johannis de Deo (Lassus), Missa Rorate Coeli (Haydn), Ave verum (Elgar), Expectans expectavi (Wood), Bishop of Dover: 3.15 E, Responses (Rose), Collegium Regale (Tavener), Faire is the heaven (Harris): 6.30 Sermon & Compline.

YORK MINSTER: 8 & 8.45 HC: 10 S Euch, Litany (Lodemore), Missa Brevis (Leighton), Very Rev J Southgate: 11.30 M, Responses (Byrd), The Lamentation (Sabatov), Short Service (Gibbons): 4 E, Purcell in G minor, Mrs Jean Mayland.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30 M, Responses (Elduen), Jackson in G, Benedictus (Moore), Rev C Hill: 11.30 HC, Schubert in G, Ave verum corpus (Elgar): 3.15, E & Installation of Preb M Saward as Residentiary Canon, The Gloucester Service (Howells), Jesus is the dark world's light (Bach).

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC: 10 M, Responses (Aylward), Benedictus in C (Stanford), O Saviour of the world (Dalby), Rev D Gray: 11.15 Abbey Euch, Missa Aedis Christi (Howells), Canon D Gray: 3 E, Gloucester Service (Howells), Rev P J Brain: 5.45 Organ Recital, The Ward: 6.30 ES, Canon C Sumner.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 HC: 11 Euch, Stabat mater (Mozart), My shepherd is the living Lord (Wheeler), O sacrum convivium (Messiaen), The Provost: 3 E, Brewer in D, Bishop J Nott.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 10.30 SM, Missa Brevis in D (Mozart), Jubilate Deo (Gabrieli), O sacrum convivium (Tallis), Fiat! Ai Iugro (Christus), 12, 5.30, 7: 2.30 Organ Recital: Martin Baker: 3.30 V & B, Magnificat primi toni (Lassus), Christe Iesu (Taverner), Lagos let part (Christus).

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10 (Children's), 6 LM: 11.30 HM, Mass for three voices (Byrd), Silent corvus (Meyer), Fr P Carroll.

GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF THE DIVINE WISDOM, Moscow Rd, W2: 9.30 M: 11 Divine Liturgy.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF THE DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD, Ennismore Gdns, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy.

ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF ST SAVVA, Lancaster Rd, W1: 10.30 Divine Liturgy.

THE CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC: 11.15 MP, My beloved spake (Hadley), Rev D J Burgess.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 M, Benedicite (Purcell), The Lord is my shepherd (Stanford), Dr R Dawes: 12.30 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 8.30 HC: 11 S Euch, Quedlam to solus (Vivaldi), Psalm 23 (Schubert), The Chaplain.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Lord we beseech Thee (Batten), The King of Love (Somervell), Ven P Mallett, The Life Guards: 12 HC.

LINCOLN'S INN CHAPEL: 11.30 MP, Teach me O Lord (Attwood), Rev S Dodsworth.

TOWER OF LONDON, EC3: 11 M, Responses (Smith), Short Service (Gibbons), Rev R D Gould.

TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street, EC4: 8.30 HC: 11.15 MP, O most merciful (Wood) Sumsion in D, Thalben-Ball in C, Cast me not away from thy presence (Wesley), The Master.

ST CLEMENT DANES (RAF Church) WC2: 9 HC: 11 Euch, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Ave verum corpus (Mozart), Rev P Bishop.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC: 11 M, Stanford in A, O for a close walk with God (Stanford): 3.30 E, We wait for thy loving kindness, Arnold in A, My song shall be alway (Ramsey).

ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER: 11 S Euch, Canon P Delaney.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM: 11 HM, Mass in G flat (Schubert), Like as the hart (Howells), The Vicar: 6 E & B.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 11 Rev S Wookey: 6.30 Rev I Bentley.

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, Old Church Street, SW3: 8, 12 HC, 10 Children's Service: 11 M, Mr D Lobley: 6 E.

CHRIST CHURCH, CHELSEA, SW3: 8 HC: 11 S Euch, Rev S Acland.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street: 8.15 HC: 11 S Euch, Communion Service in F (Darke), Fr D Harris.

HOLY TRINITY, Brompton Road, SW7: 10.30 Family Service, Rev J A K Miller: 6.30 Informal Service, Preb J T C B Collins.

HOLY TRINITY, Prince Consort Road, SW7: 8.30, 12.05 HC: 11 MP.

HOLY TRINITY, Sloane Street, SW1: 8.45 HC: 11 Euch, Rev K Yates.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 M & Euch, Benedicite (Ashfield), Langdon in E, Ave Maria (Stravinsky), Canon J Oates: 6.30 E, Responses (Ayleward), Walmisley in D minor, Rev W Bolton.

ST CUTHBERT'S, Philbeach Gardens SW5: 10 HC, 11 S Euch, Whitlock in G, Rev J Vine.

ST GEORGE'S, Bloomsbury, WC1: 10 Parish Communion: 6.30 E.

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC, 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis Nomine (Hassler), O Lord give Thy Holy Spirit (Tallis), The Rector.

ST GILES-IN-THE-FIELDS, St Giles High St, WC2: 8, 12 HC: 11 MP, Rev P Faunch: 6.30 EP, Rev C C Taylor.

ST JAMES'S, Muswell Hill, N10: 8 HC: 11 Family Service, Preb M Bunker: 6.30 EP.

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: W1: 8.30 HC: 11 S Euch: 5.45 EP.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis in B flat (Mozart) Rev K Eastell: 6 E, Cooke in G, Yes though I walk (Stainer), Rev G Buckle.

ST JOHN'S, Hyde Park Crescent, W2: 8 HC: 10 Parish Euch with Children's Church, Canon T Bloxham: 6.30 Evening Worship, Rev O Ross.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, Holland Rd, W14: 10 LM: 11 SM, Fr G Bright: 6 V & B.

ST JOHN THE DIVINE, Vassal Rd, SW9: 8 LM: 10 HM, Missa Sancti Francisci (Oldroyd), Salvator Mundi (Blow): 4 E.

ST JOHN'S WOOD CHURCH, NW8: 8 HC: 9.30 Parish Communion: 11 S Euch, Missa Aedis Christi (Howells).

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC: 10.30 S Euch, Schubert in G, Bet me za a zsi (Walton), Rev H Vincent: 6.30 E, Hail Gladdening light (Wood), Rev S Watson.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC: 10.30 Parish Euch, Ireland in C, God be in my head (Rutter), Rev T Devonshire Jones.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Preston), Canon P Bates.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC: 9.45 Euch, Dr A Townend: 11.30 Visitors to London Service, Responses (Smith of Durham), Jackson in G, The Vicar: 2.45 Chinese Service (EP), Rev Q Lee: 5 E, Responses (Smith of Durham), Walmisley in D minor: 6.30 Taizé Prayers, Rev M Henwood.

ST MARY ABBOTS, Kensington, W8: 8, 12.30 HC: 9.30 S Euch, Canon J Wilkinson: 11.15 M, The Vicar: 6.30 E, The Vicar.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 9.45, 7 LM: 11 HM, Missa Brevis in F (Mozart), Dr B Horne: 6.15 E & B.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC: 11 Euch, Mass (Gilbert), Christ in the cradle (Leighton), Rev J Chater: 6.30 E, Rev I Brown.

ST MARY-LE-STRAND (WRNS Church), Strand WC2: 11 Sung Communion, Rev E Thompson.

ST MATTHEW'S, Great Peter St, SW1: 8 HC: 10 S Euch, Mass (Murray), Bishop M Marshall: 6.30 LM.

ST MICHAEL'S, Chester Square, SW1: 8 15 HC: 11 HC, Rev D C L Prior: 7 ES: The Youth Team.

ST MICHAEL'S, Cornhill EC3: 11 M & HC, Litany (Tallis), Responses (Byrd), Purcell in C, Gibbons in F, I know my soul hath power (Parry).

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC: 11 S Euch, Communion Service in A minor (Latham), Magnificat (Gloucester Service) (Howells), Hymn The Virgin (Britten), Rev H Ruschmeyer.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC: 10 Family Mass: 11 SM, Missa Brevis de Deo (Smyth), O Lord look down (Battishill), Fr A Chadwick.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Moxon Street, SW3: 8 HC: 11 MP, Ave Maria (Arcadelt), Magnificat (Kelly), Rev G James: 6.30 E, Rev G James.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8, 9 LM: 11 SM, Missa Secunda (Haller), Jesu meine freude (Bach), Fr J Towers: 6 Stations of the Cross & B.

ST VEDAST, Foster Lane, EC2: 11 SM, The Rector.

THE ANNUNCIATION, Bryanston Street, W1: 10.15 Stations of the Cross: 11 SM, Missa brevis in D minor (Mozart), I was glad when they said unto me (Purcell): 6 LM & B.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev J H McNeilage: 6.30 Rev W A Cairns.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15, 6.30 Rev H G Ross.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa Brevis (Cissell), Tantaquam ad introeunt (Victoria), Antiquam meam dilectam (Victoria).

FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4.15, 6.15 LM: 11 HM, Missa Sancti Cruciis (Haydn), Justorum animae (Stanford), Miserere mei (Lotti).

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Kyrie in D minor (Mozart), Laudate Dominum (Mozart), 12.30, 4.30, 7: 3.30 V & B, Lastare Jerusalem (Viadana).

ST MARY'S, Cadogan Street, SW3: 8.30, 10, 11 Mass in A, Missa (Cecilia), Ave Maria (Bruckner), Ave verum (Mozart), 12.15, 6.30.

OUR LADY OF VICTORIES, Kensington High Street, W8: 8, 10, 12.30, 6.30 LM: 11.15 SM, Missa brevis secunda (Goller), In jejunio et fletu (Tallis).

AMERICAN CHURCH IN LONDON, Tottenham Court Rd, W1: 11 Rev Ross F Allison.

CITY TEMPLE, Holborn, EC1: 10.30 Rev E Welch.

HINDE STREET METHODIST CHURCH, W1: 11 Rev L Griffiths: 6.30 Rev M Rothwell.

KENSINGTON TEMPLE (Charismatic), Notting Hill Gate, W11: 9, 11, Wynne Lewis: 2.30, Communion, Gareth Lewis: 6.30, Communion, Leonard Albert: 9 Late on Sunday, Lyndon North.

KENSINGTON URC, Allen Street, W8: 11, 6.30 Rev P Lovell.

REGENT SQUARE URC (Presbyterian/Congregational), Tavistock Place, WC1: 11 Rev K P Swaine: 6.30 Rev Dr R K Scopes.

SALVATION ARMY (Regent Hall), Oxford St W1: 11, 3 (Music), 6.30.

ST ANDREW'S URC, Frognal Lane NW3: 11 Rev Dr P Morgan.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 HC, Rev W D Swanson: 7 Choral V, Miserere (Bach), Rev T Farrell.

ST JOHN'S WOOD URC, NW8: 11 Rev W C McCrorie.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC: 11 Morning Service, Rev P Hulme.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, Cardinal Basil Hume: 6.30, 'Wesley's Final Years', Dr Paul Sangster's Presentation.

WESTMINSTER CHAPEL, Buckingham Gate SW1: 11, 6.30 Rev Dr R T Kendall.

WESTMINSTER MEETING SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), 52 St Martins Le WC2: 11, Meeting for worship.

Forthcoming marriages

Dr C. Ashley, CBE and Mrs A.M. Keogh
The engagement is announced between Cedric Ashley and Auriol Keogh.

Mr J.J. Clarke and Miss C.J. Dodman
The engagement is announced between Jonathan James, son of Mr and Mrs James Bernard Clarke, of Hinderton, Wirral, and Camilla Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Keith Dodman, of Burton, Wirral.

Mr S. Cox and Miss P. Webb
The engagement is announced between Steven, elder son of Mr and Mrs David Cox, of March, Cambridgeshire, and Philippa, only daughter of Mr Arthur Webb, of London, and Mary Waner.

Dr J.L. Dallaway and Miss R.M. Barsby
The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs A.S. Dallaway, of Godalming, and Renata, younger daughter of Mrs M. Barsby and the late Mr John Barsby, of Burnham.

Mr D.C.E. Fitzgerald and Miss L.M. Hallam
The engagement is announced between Daniel, son of Mr and Mrs Edward Fitzgerald, of Madang, Papua New Guinea, and Lynn, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Hallam, of Caterham, Surrey.

Dr S. Williams and Miss J. Carey-Harris
The engagement is announced between Stephen, eldest son of Mr and Mrs R. Williams, of Appleton, Cheshire, and Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs P.C. Harris, of Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire.

Mr C.D. Jennings and Miss C.C. Hampson
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs David Jennings, of Broomshields Home Farm, Satley, Co Durham, and Catherine (Poddy), younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Joe Hampson, of Brompton, Northallerton, North Yorkshire.

Mr A. Sellick and Miss C. McNutt
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Mrs Caroline Sellick and the late Mr Christopher Sellick, of Parfitts Farm, Eversley Cross, Hartley Wintney, Hampshire, and Carolyn, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Goodwin McNutt, of 'Wharenui', Little Akaloa, Banks Peninsula, New Zealand.

Mr A.S. Underwood and Miss M.J. Gore-Langton
The engagement is announced between Antony Simon, second son of Mr and Mrs Donald Underwood, of Centaur Place, Bramley, Surrey, and Mary Jane, daughter of Colonel I.W. Gore-Langton and the late Lady Joan Gore-Langton, of South Park, Robertsbridge, Sussex.

Mr S.R. Whalley and Miss S.E. Bane
The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Mr and Mrs Frederick S.J. Whalley, of Tunbridge Wells, and Sarah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Maurice V. Bane, of Ecton.

Marriages

Mr J. LaViolette and Mrs B. Stone
The marriage took place at St Albans Church, Westwood, Los Angeles, on February 23, between Mr John LaViolette, of Connecticut, and Mrs Belinda Stone (née Balfour).

Mr M.N. Kalaji and Miss R.M. El Dhaher
The marriage took place at Al Kalaji Residence, Amman, Jordan, on March 8, 1991, between Mr Munzer Kalaji, son of the late Mr Naum Kalaji and of Mrs Naim Kalaji, and Miss Rana El Dhaher, daughter of Mr and Mrs Mohammad El

I have not spoken in secret, or kept my purpose hidden. ...I am the Lord, and I speak the truth: I make known what is right.
Isaiah 45 : 19 G.N.B

BIRTHS

BUSHNELL - On February 22nd, to Irena (née Brzeskiwinski) and Timothy, a son, Thomas Guy.

CARR - On February 28th, to Jane (née Morris) and Peter, a daughter, Harriet Venetia.

DOHERTY - On March 7th, to Angela (née Spikker) and John, a daughter, Hannah Elizabeth Patricia, a sister for Sarah, Sean, Mary, Claire and Paul.

FARKAS - On March 3rd 1991, to Emma (née Williams) and Alan, a daughter, Katya Hannah.

FERGUSSON - On March 2nd 1991, at the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, to Margaret (Wookey) and Geordie Fergusson, a daughter, Elizabeth.

HARRISON - On March 4th 1991, to Mary Alexandra Anne (née Forrester) and Jonathan, a son, Thomas Joseph Richard. "Marvellous are thy works". Psalm 139 v14.

MANN - On March 6th, at The Rosie, Cambridge, to Judith (née Cannon) and Roger, a daughter, Eleanor Claire, a sister for Rachel.

McOUAID - On March 6th 1991 in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, to Karen (née Probert) and Michael a second daughter, Megan Rosie Aimee, a long awaited and most precious sister for Katie Rachel Victoria.

PHILLIPS - On March 6th, to Claire and Rory, a son, Charlie.

RIEMER - On March 1st, at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Isabel (née Christie) and Steve, a daughter, Alexandra Clare Ceridwen.

SHAMP - On February 26th, at Epsom, to Amanda and David, a daughter, Leonie Violet, a sister for Philippa.

STACEY - On March 7th, to Carolyn (née Valle) and James, a daughter, Elizabeth Rose, a beautiful sister for Michael.

STUART - On March 8th 1991, at High Wycombe, Bucks., to Joy (née Liscombe) and John Neville, a son, William Edward, a brother for James.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

GIBSON:HOBBS - On March 8th 1941, in Cardiff, Hophni to Muriel, present address 51 Westbourne Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff.

DEATHS

ALEXANDER - On March 7th, peacefully in hospital, Seymour, aged 84. "With Christ, which is far better". Funeral at Warfield Church at 2 pm on Thursday March 14th. Donations to Far East Broadcasting Association if desired, or flowers to Lines Bannister & Co., 69 The High Street, Ascot, Berks., tel: (0344) 20266.

ARKLE - On March 7th 1991, of Conwy, N. Wales, aged 68 years, Dr. Clive Ernest Arkle M.B.C.H.B. Sadly missed by his family and all who knew him. Funeral Service at Caerhun Church, nr. Conwy, Wednesday March 13th at 11.30 am, followed by internment at Tan-y-Foel Cemetery, Penmaenmawr. Donations if so desired for R.N.L.I. (Conwy Branch) and the British Heart and Stroke Association may be sent c/o A.C. Lambert & Son Funeral Directors, 69 Conwy Road, Llandudno Junction, Gwynedd, tel: (0492) 581072.

BIGNOLD - On March 8th, peacefully at her home in Kingston Vale, Eleanor Maude (née Langridge), aged 74, beloved wife of Sidney and mother of Jane, John, Peter and Andrew. Fond mother-in-law of Keith, Brenda, Jane and Trisha, much loved Nan of Nicholas, Simon, Valerie, Mathew, Nicola, Susan, Lucy, Eleanor and George and Great-Nan of Jessica and Nicole. Rest in Peace.

BIRKIN - On March 6th, peacefully in his sleep at home, after many years of illness most bravely borne, David Birkin, D.S.C., Légion d'Honneur, adored by all his family: his wife Judy, children Andrew, Jane and Linda; grandchildren Kate, Charlotte, Lou, David, Alexander, Ned, Henry, George, Jack, and great-grandson Roman. Funeral Service at Chelsea Old Church on Thursday March 14th at 12.00. All flowers and enquiries to J.H. Kenyon Ltd., tel: (071) 937-0757.

BROWNLOW - On March 4th 1991, suddenly but peacefully, Margaret (Mags) aged 51. Much loved wife of David and devoted mother of Marcus, Dominic and Timothy. The eldest daughter of Arthur and Eva Sly. Sister of Gerald, Philip and Richard. She will be greatly missed by her family and all her many friends. Funeral Service at St Peter and St Paul's Church, Osbourby, Sleaford, on Thursday March 14th at 1.30 pm, followed by cremation at 4 pm at Peterborough Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The Margaret Brownlow Memorial A/C, Barclays Bank Plc, Church Street, Peterborough, for Riding for the Disabled Association, British Heart Foundation, Great Ormond Street Wishing Well Appeal and British Diabetic Association. Enquiries to John Lucas (Funeral Directors) Ltd., (0755) 62669.

COOKE - On February 28th 1991, peacefully after a short illness, in Eastbourne District General Hospital, Roland Cooke C.M.G., C.B.E. Beloved husband of Violet. Funeral Service at Eastbourne Crematorium on Wednesday March 13th at 12.30 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to St Wilfrid's Hospice (Eastbourne Ltd), 2 Mill Gap Road, Eastbourne, Sussex.

DUGDALE - On March 8th, peacefully at home, Lt. Col. J.F.C. (Eric), aged 86, husband of Carol (dec.), father of Caroline, Rose and James, stepfather of Tim and Simon Mosley. Funeral Service at Chelsea Old Church, SW3, at 12.30 pm on Wednesday March 13th, followed by private cremation. All enquiries to Kenyons, 49 Marloes Road, London W8. Tel 071-937 0757.

GUY - On March 7th, Major Reginald Charles Guy, M.C., late of The East Surrey Regiment, dearly loved husband of Joan, much loved father and father-in-law of Tuffy and Roland, John and Ruth, adored Gugpum of Rosalie, Katie, Philippa and Nicholas. Funeral Service on Tuesday March 12th - 2 pm at St Peter's Church, Yateley. Flowers, or donations for The Queen's Surrey Regimental Charity, may be sent to Parker and Sons, The Green, Yateley, tel. (0252) 872297.

LANDSEER - On March 4th, peacefully after a long illness, Leo Michael John, aged 82 years, dearly loved husband of Ismay and father of Susan and Sally. Funeral to take place on March 13th at 2 pm at Putney Vale Crematorium. All enquiries and flowers to Ashton Funeral Services, 140 Alexandra Road, Wimbledon SW19, tel: (081) 946-1051.

MACLACHLAN - On March 7th, peacefully at home after a courageous fight against cancer, Douglas Leonard, much loved husband of Brenda and father of Alan, Talia and Rory. Cremation at Guildford Crematorium, Broadwater, New Pond Road, Godalming, on Tuesday March 12th at 11.30 am. No flowers and no mourning please.

PARKHOUSE - On Thursday March 7th, Harold William, suddenly, aged 84 years, much loved father and grandfather. Funeral Service at The Avenue United Reformed Church, The Avenue, Southampton, on Friday March 15th at 12.45 pm, followed by private cremation. Family flowers only please. If so desired, donations to the Y.M.C.A., Southampton, c/o R. Hallum & Son Funeral Directors, 125 St Mary Street, Southampton.

SPEED - On March 8th, Reverend Alfred Slenkamp, former Vicar of Great Gaddesden (1957-72) and of Lightwater (1952-57). Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Northchurch, Berkhamsted, at 4 pm on Wednesday March 13th. No flowers please, but donations if wished for Save the Children Fund, c/o The Rectory, Northchurch.

THOMPSON - On March 7th 1991, Hugh T. Thompson, Lt. Col. The Border Regiment (retired), aged 93. No letters please.

WERNER - On March 6th, in Dublin, in his 90th year, Louis Emil J., D.O.M.S., F.R.S.C.I., F.C.O.phth. Beloved husband of Patricia, dearly loved father of Nigel and stepdaughter of Janet Webb. Sadly missed by all his relations and a large circle of friends. Body donated to medical science. A Thanksgiving Service to be held in Trinity College Chapel, Dublin, at a later date.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

DODD - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of John Harold Dodd, sometime Headmaster of Downside School, Purley and successively Chairman, Secretary and Vice-President of IAPS will be held in Great St Mary's Church, Cambridge, on Saturday April 13th at 2.30 pm.

DOUGLAS - Lady Patricia. A Memorial Service will be held at Holy Trinity Church, on Clapham Common, March 16th at 3.15 pm.

LAWSON - Alick of Blinkbonny, Newburgh. Loving husband, father and grandfather whose memorial service will be celebrated 10.30 to 11.15 am Easter Saturday March 30th at Abdie Church, Lindores, Newburgh, Fife. Friends are respectfully asked to send a card stating their intention to attend.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

IN loving memory of Angie, from Richard, Andrew and James, on this her birthday.

JULIA STONOR, Marquise d'Hautpoul de Seyre, born 1860, died 4th February 1950 at Turville Grange — deeply loved, loyal, admirable aunt to Sherman and great-aunt to Julia Stonor. "Blessed are they who are persecuted for righteousness's sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven".

SENTAMARNAU—9th March, 1985: Placens Deo facta est dilecta, et vivens inter peccatores translata est.

SHERMAN STONOR, 6th Baron Camoys, born 4th July 1913, died 9th March 1976 — deeply loved, greatly admired Papa of Julia Stonor. "As the Archangel Michael was fighting against the Dragon, voices of a multitude were heard saying: 'Salvation unto our God, Alleluia'".

Birth and Death notices may be accepted over the telephone.

For publication the following day please telephone by 5.00pm Monday to Thursday. 4pm Friday. 9.30am-1.00pm Saturday for Monday's paper.

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CHRISTENING

BURKE Siobhan Annie, daughter of Martin John and Catherine Elizabeth will be christened at All Saints Church, Beckley, East Sussex on Sunday, 10th March.

NOEL - I was so glad to have your note. Would you be prepared to send me a general Power of Attorney? It would be a tremendous help. Best wishes, Allan.

SARAH-STEVE Congratulations. "Wellington Family."

SARAH-STEVE Happiness always. Caro, Thomas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHAT WILL THE BUDGET books to you? Researcher seeks families to interview. Telephone 071 722 5993

STUDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACCOMODATION read. 4 girls Jesmond area, Newcastle, July 91. Tel (Exeter) 091 281 5788.

ALAN Capel happy birthday Dad. Big hugs love Melissa x

ANGELA Copeland. Happy 50th birthday. Love from, Ralph, Darren, Timothy and friends.

ANOURLH - Antigone 1949 production & memories/photos needed. Tilder 091 212 0698

ART exhibition - Robin Savage, Jo Skinner. Heffer's Gallery Cambridge. 2-16 March

BIRTHDAY wishes: to Thandiwe and Hawa, many happy returns. Love Efin

CHEERFUL hardworking student couple seek any summer work. Ring 0482 448237 (Danielle)

COMPUTERS for sale: Hewlett Packard HP-71 and Casio Data Bank PC500. Tel 071 794 9220

CYAL Millett, happy birthday for Wednesday 6th March. All my love, Andrew

EPLAT Tube. Good condition. £380 ono. Phone (0895) 39769 after 4pm.

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GRADUATE starting MBA October seeks relevant summer work experience. 0892 427062

STUDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

GUITAR amplifier, Peavey Bandit 112. Brand new, inc pedals, only £250. Tel 081 902 3867

GULL sailing dinghy (12ft.) G.H.P. trolley, trailer, covers, V.G.C. £850. 0278 785345

HAPPY 18th birthday Duncan and happy Mothers Day Mum. Love Andrew.

HELP broke mike student needs work, bin/bing considered for proper remuneration. 205 6987

HOOKER Hayes, B.P.S.A. 1991, Oxford Poly 3rd XV. Nobody comes close

HORTON, Susan. Happy Mothers day. Thank you. R.

HOT FOIL printing machine, large quantity of foil £340. Tel: 0532 216595

JENSONS, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne flat wanted. 3 people, rent negotiable. Tel 091 232 0637

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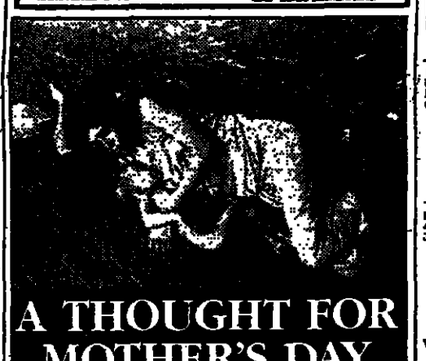

A THOUGHT FOR MOTHER'S DAY
Today and every day 1500 women will die in pregnancy
Every minute, a woman somewhere dies from the hazards of pregnancy or in childbirth.
'Maternal mortality' is a ferocious worldwide killer. But it can be prevented.
Marie Stopes International launch on Mother's Day their vital Safe Motherhood Initiative which aims to eliminate these tragic deaths.
Major maternal healthcare, family planning, obstetrics and child immunisation programmes will be put in place in the countries with the highest levels of maternal mortality.
With your help, Safe Motherhood can be achieved. It can cost so little. Just £27 can provide treatment for 12 women in a week.
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4.00pm Friday, 9.00 am-12.30pm Saturday for Monday's paper.
Marriage notices not appearing on the Court & Social Page may also be accepted by telephone.

MARCH 9 — ON THIS DAY — 1912

While the exact future of the old County Hall seems uncertain, this account of its early history is perhaps of some interest. Ralph Knott (1878-1929), its architect, won the competition for the design when only 29. He was a fine draughtsman and watercolourist and, while being left-handed, was said to be able to draw equally well with either hand.

The King and the New County Hall

TODAY'S PROGRAMME

The King and Queen, accompanied by the Prince of Wales and Princess Mary, will today visit the site of the new County Hall at Westminster Bridge, when his Majesty will lay the foundation-stone of the building. Mr Burns was received in audience by the Queen yesterday in his official capacity as President of the Local Government Board.

The new County Hall, of which his Majesty is to lay the foundation-stone today has long been recognised as an absolute necessity in view of the continued growth of the work of the London County Council. When that body came into existence in 1889 and took over the offices of the Metropolitan Board of Works, facing St James's Park, it was realised that new municipal buildings would have to be secured ultimately. In 1893 a suggestion to acquire a site at the south-west end of Parliament-street was rejected by the Council, and four years later Parliament declined to give its sanction to a Bill enabling the Council to deal with a site on the south side of Trafalgar-square. In 1902 a proposal to acquire a site in the Adelphi failed to find favour, but by this time a new and larger building had become imperative. In 1898 a suggestion had been made to the Council by Mr J D Gilbert that an embankment should be erected adjoining Westminster Bridge. The suggestion was mooted again in 1902 and 1904, and in April, 1905, it was decided to acquire, at an estimated cost of £600,000, the site which the King is to visit today.

As the result of open competition, Mr Ralph Knott's design for the new building was declared to be the most suitable, and in 1909 a start was made with the construction of the embankment wall. This work was one of some difficulty, owing to the risk of damage to Westminster Bridge, but the wall was successfully completed by September, 1910, at a total cost of £58,000. The plan of the principal floor of the new County Hall indicates a building 750ft long with an average width of 310ft. The building is to consist of nine storeys, of which the two lowest, being below the road level, will be utilized for storage purposes. The principal floor will be mainly devoted to the Council chamber, lobbies, and committee-rooms, but there will also be accommodation for chief officers whose duties necessitate close attendance upon the Council's committees. The remaining floors will be allocated to the staffs of the various departments. The Council chamber will be 3,500 square feet in area and 55ft in height, with galleries for the accommodation of the Press and public. Provision is made in the chamber for 200 members, although the present membership of the Council is only 137. In arranging the accommodation for the staff, the following standard of floor space has been adopted:- Heads of departments, 400 square feet; chief assistants, 250 square feet; head of sections, 150 square feet; draughtsment, 120 square feet; clerks engaged on committee work and clerks dealing with plans, 100 square feet; ordinary clerks, 80 square feet; and typists and assistants engaged on routine work, 50 square feet. On that portion of the site which is to be built on at present accommodation is provided for a staff of 2,270.

The external elevations of the frontages to the river, to Westminster Bridge-road, and to Belvedere-road will be of Portland stone on a base of granite. The scheme as originally approved by the Council was estimated to cost £1,706,000, but it has now been decided, for the present at any rate, to exclude the site of Messrs Holloway's premises from the scheme. The estimated cost is accordingly reduced to £1,412,000.

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SM COLLINGWOOD happy Mothers Day. Lots of love from Fiona and Rebecca xxxx

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STEVE desperate for fresh supply of handcuffs any donations tel 0532 784066. Thanks

SWING / Dance band Ava, Amelia, ragtime bookings. Tel Hayden: 0860 860896 (Mobile)

TOM Lightweight happy 18th need of all though a happy future. L.A.

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PADRICK Cecil George of 17 Langford Road, Bedminster Down, Bristol, Avon died on 7th January 1991 Particulars to Trowers & Hamlins Solicitors of (MCL.0021.1795.EP) 6 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, London WC2A 3RP before 10th May 1991

TRUSTEE ACTS

WALLACE Norah Christina, 23 Avis House, Gratwick Road, Worthing, West Sussex died 10th November 1990 particulars to Blount Petre & Co. Solicitors, 29 Weymouth Street London W1N 3FJ before 4th June 1991

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
NO. 002009 OF 1991
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF FLEXPACK U.K. LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 19th February 1991 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the Confirmation of the reduction of the Capital of the above-named Company from £21,000,000 to £15,065,973.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Honourable Mr Justice Harman at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Monday the 18th day of March 1991
ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undersignedand Solicitors, on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
DATED this 7th day of March 1991
Dibb Lupton Broomhead and Prior
Fountain Precinct
Balm Green
Sheffield S1 1RZ
Solicitors for the above-named Company

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 12

DOZYWOCIE
(c) Polish, pronounced dosh-VOCH, a parental contract with children guaranteeing lifelong support. The parents make an arrangement with the son or daughter in whom they have the greatest confidence, and bequeath an additional share of property in exchange for a promise that this child will support the parents for life.

HAIN
(c) To save or preserve or enclose, from the ON *hegna* to enclose: "The uplands are usually hained or laid up at Candlemas; but richer land is often left open until March."

REREMOUSE
(a) A bat, from the OE *hreremus* to move + Latin *mus* a mouse: "One of the seamen affirm'd that he had seen flying fishes, and that they had wings like a reremouse."

LAMIGER
(a) A cripple or lame person, orig. obsc. but presumably connected with *lame*; Hardy: "What can we two poor lamigers do against such a multitude."

ENTERTAINMENTS

Continued from page 12

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL B.O. 071 930 8800 or 24hr Hotline 071 497 9977 (bkg fee) 071 379 4444 (bkg fee) 071 793 1000 (bkg fee)
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LONDON PALLADIUM B/O & CC 071 437 7373 CC (bkg fee) 071 497 9977 (24 hrs) 071 379 4444 081 741 9999 Grps 071 240 7941
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LONDON PALLADIUM BO 071 437 7373/437 3065 cc 24hr 379 4444 (no bkg fee) 497 9977 24hr (bkg fee) Previews From 3 June Opens 12 June
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by Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber
Starring JASON DONOVAN

LYRIC, Shaftesbury Ave 071 437 3686 cc 24hrs (no bkg fee) 379 4444
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"A JOYOUS WALLOPING HIT" Guardian
"The joint never stops jumpin" Time Out
Mon-Fri 8.00 Sat at 5.00 & 8.45
APPLY DAILY FOR RETURNS AND CANCELLATIONS

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH 081 741 2311 (cc no bkg fee 071 836 3464) THE WINTER WIFE By Claire Tomalin.
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8 & 7.45 pm - TWO WEEKS ONLY! STUDIO 081 741 8701
THE ROUND TABLE by Christoph Hein 4.30 & 8pm

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 071 928 2252: Grps 071 620 0741 24 hr cc bkg fee: 071 497 9977
OLIVIER
Today 2.00 & 7.15 Mon 7.15 RACING DEMON Hare
LYTTELTON
Today 2.15 & 7.15 Mon 7.30 THE WIDOW Dorenmatt adapted by Valency
COTTESLOE
Today 2.30 & 7.30 Mon 7.30 (PREVIEWS) INVISIBLE FRIENDS Ayckbourn

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC

Help: Libby Sheldon, artwork analyst

Going to the art of the matter

LIBBY Sheldon's room looks like a cross between a studio and a science laboratory, and would be the first stop for someone hoping to confirm that the picture in granny's attic was an Old Master.

Ms Sheldon and her partner, Catherine Hassall, run UCL Painting Analysis, a consultancy which uses X-rays, ultraviolet and infrared lights, gas-chromatography and specialist microscopes to date and attribute works of art.

Much of the work comes from the London auction houses, professional conservators and historians, but about a fifth of their clients are private owners curious to know what lies beneath the surface of a favourite picture. "It is a question of accumulating evidence," Ms Sheldon says. "It is unusual not to be able to give a date within, say, 50 years, and because the use of colours has changed over time we can sometimes be very precise." For example, the paint on a cup, which the owner thought might date from 200 BC, was found to contain titanium white, which was not invented until 1920.

"On the other hand, we have a painting which the client thought might be an 18th century copy; there were a lot produced in Italy when the Grand Tour was at its height. But we think it is much earlier, possibly around the time of Leonardo, because we have discovered azurite blue. The use of that virtually died out after Prussian Blue was discovered by a German chemist in 1704."

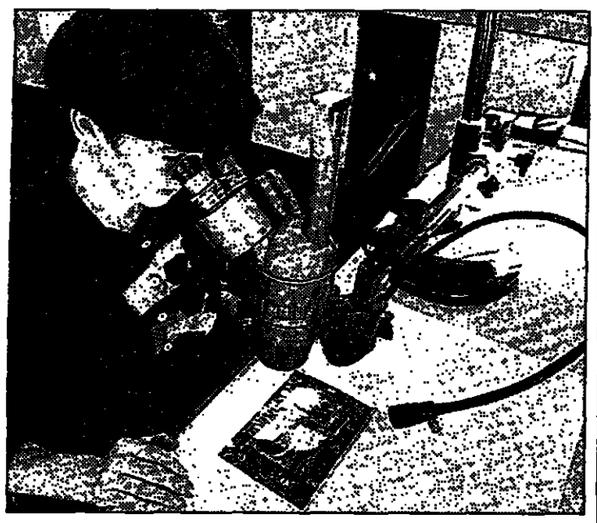
Almost every element can provide clues: whether the nails holding the canvas were machine-made or hand-beaten; whether the backing wood is oak, generally used north of the Alps, or poplar, more common to the south of the Alps; the style of the underpainting, revealed by X-ray, which can be as characteristic as the artist's handwriting. "Forgers and copyists would never have anticipated that one day we would be able to look at paintings in this way," Ms Sheldon says. "Even dirt can have relevance: a layer sandwiched between two layers of paint suggests later additions. It is like detective work and it can be very exciting. It brings you closer to history and to the artist. Sometimes you find a hair, and that really does send shivers down the spine."

'Forgers never anticipated that we might do this work'

The fact that the company is located in the history of art department at University College, London, means that, for a fee, it can draw on equipment in other departments. The charges to clients depend on the type of examination required. A report involving straightforward optical examination costs about £50. A comprehensive analysis and photography of pigments, varnish, ground and support layers would be £300-plus.

LIZ GILL

● *UCL Painting Analysis, History of Art Department, London University, 43 Gordon Square, London WC1 (071-383 2090).*

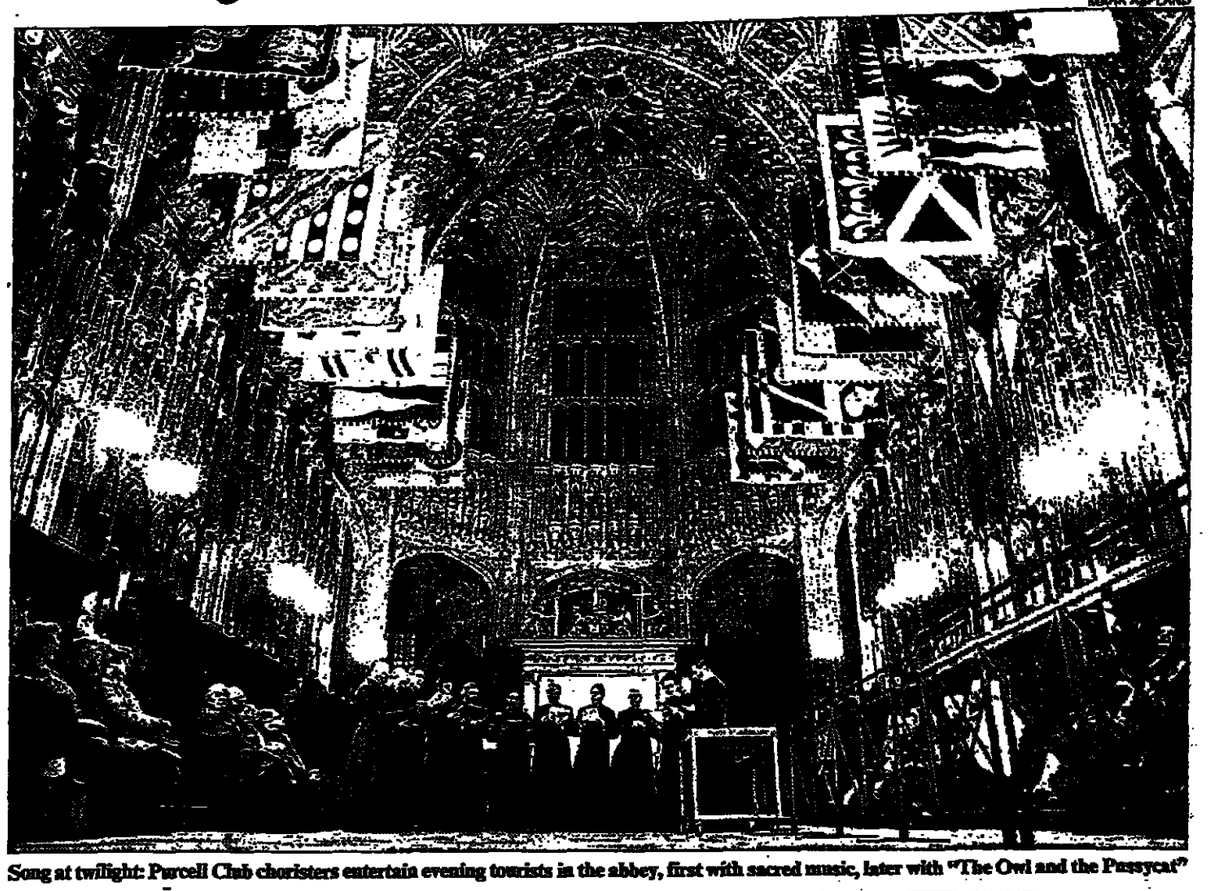


True or false? Libby Sheldon puts an old painting to a modern test

The abbey in close harmony

George Hill joins sightseers on a musical tour of Westminster Abbey's treasures

MARK ASPLAND



Song at twilight: Purcell Club choristers entertain evening tourists in the abbey, first with sacred music, later with "The Owl and the Pussycat"

Even when the daytime crowds of tourists have been ushered out of Westminster Abbey at dusk, the abbey is never completely dark inside. The lights in Parliament Square shine dimly upwards through the stained glass, and glimmer on the pale ribs of the nave vault, the tallest in England. The rampant undergrowth of monumental statuary along the aisles is almost hidden in shadows, restoring the sense of space that the church must have had in the Middle Ages. The grumble of traffic seems far away.

Like any public building which has a busy daytime life, the abbey has an atmosphere after hours that makes visitors feel like eavesdroppers, awed and intrigued to be catching it off guard.

Ten or 12 times a year, a small party of visitors files into the abbey after its main doors are closed, ducking their heads under the low arch of a side doorway, to see the church and hear its music as it might have been heard before the place became an item on the mass tourist circuit. If the Purcell Club let more than a few people attend their choral recitals in the abbey, they would chase away the hushed solemnity which is part of the experience, and which is so often absent by daylight.

The club's members are former choirboys of the abbey, who live within reach of London and still enjoy singing church music. Between the anthems and motets, one of them gives a spoken commentary, describing the church and its treasures with zest, knowledge and affection. After the performance, the club provides tea and sausage rolls, to sustain the audience after their two-hour musical tour around the draughty aisles.

"We can cope with a maximum audience of 70 before numbers become too large for the more confined parts of the abbey, such as the Confessor's shrine and St Faith's chapel," says Bernard Baboulène, secretary of the club, who provides the spoken commentary for the tour. He sang in the abbey choir at the Queen's coronation, and also at her father's coronation in 1937.

The show is presented with a very English mixture of dedication and improvisation. The rigorous disciplines of choir-school tradition are combined with the amiable simplicities of an old-fashioned church hall fund-raising event. The singers are not members of the abbey's professional choir. The programme of music is determined each evening just an hour before the performance, according to the balance of singers who happen to have turned up for the preliminary rehearsal.

Profits from the recitals are donated to charity, mainly to the abbey's music fund. Bookings are being taken well into 1996, and there is a tendency for parties of satisfied customers to come away from one performance and immediately join the back of the queue.

The performance begins almost in darkness, close to the tomb of the unknown warrior at the west end. The lights gradually brighten as the choir sings a solemn anthem such as *Beati quorum via*, by Sir Charles Stanford, who is buried in the abbey. Then Mr Baboulène describes the earliest origins of the foundation, in Saxon times. Singers and audience move past the serried memorials of the famous and the forgotten into the gilded choir stalls, where the next day's service sheets are already laid out. Another piece is sung, perhaps *Ante luciferum genitus*, by Jacob Handl, the 16th century Bohemian monk, and another stage of the abbey's history is expounded. Then eastward by stages to the sanctuary, the cluster of royal tombs round the shrine of Edward the Confessor, and to Henry VII's fan-vaulted chapel, hung with the gaudy banners of the Order of the Bath. Under Henry V's openwork chantry chapel, the choir sings the triumphant *Deo Gratias*, reputedly sung in the abbey on Henry's return from the battle of Agincourt. Chapel by chapel, the lights go out behind the party as they move back towards the west end, leaving the superb bronze effigies on the tombs of medieval kings and queens alone again in darkness and silence.

'Sausage rolls fill the table on which, at coronations, the crown jewels are laid out'

Henry Purcell, after whom the club is named, was organist of the abbey from 1679 to 1695. At his tombstone in the north aisle, the choir sings the anthem "Thou knowest, Lord, the secret of our hearts", which the composer wrote in 1694 for the funeral of Queen Mary II, and which was sung at his own burial.

The party meets for a less solemn last round of secular part songs, in the 14th century Jerusalem chamber in the dean's house. Splendidly panelled and hung with tapestries, it is the room where, in 1482, the younger son of Edward IV was taken from his mother before disappearing for ever with his brother into the Tower of London, on the orders of the future Richard III. It is the room where in 1413 the dying Henry IV reputedly recovered consciousness after a stroke, to see his son, Prince Hal, prematurely trying on the crown of England.

The crown jewels are still laid out there on the night before a coronation, on a long table where the Purcell Club now lays out its sandwiches, cakes and sausage rolls, to the strains of "The Owl and the Pussycat went to Sea".

● *Purcell Club booking: David Walters, 13 Cockshot Road, Reigate, RH2 7HD. Parties of 30-70 only, £8 per person.*

Events in town

THIS WEEKEND

☐ **Spring antique and collector fair:** Thousands of items from the 18th century to the Sixties.
Great Hall, Alexandra Palace, London N22 (081-365 2121). Tomorrow, 11.30am-5.30pm; £2, accompanied child free.

☐ **Decorative Antiques and Textiles Fair:** Quality furnishings under a marquee.
Chelsea Harbour, Lots Road, London SW10. Today, 11am-8pm; tomorrow, 11am-6pm. £4.

NEXT WEEK

☐ **London beer festival:** British beer, English cider and perry. Live music.
Camden Centre, Bidburgh Street, London WC1. Wed-Thurs, noon-3pm, 5-10pm; Fri noon-10pm. Lunchtime free, evening £1.80.

☐ **Mobil concert season:** Bach's St John Passion sung in German with the choir of King's College, Cambridge.
Royal Naval College Chapel, King William Walk, London SE10. Wed 7.30pm; £5.50-£9, concessions £4.50-£8 (081-317 8687).

JUDY FROSHAUG

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Travel also appears in THE TIMES Saturday Review Pages 40, 41 & 42 Today

Home from home:
Lucy Makin and Jonathan Hills

Sing-songs in the bat house

Lucy Makin, an artist living in London, used to go down to Kent to help an elderly friend of the family with her garden; an old-fashioned garden full of roses and columbine, currant bushes and damson trees. The old woman used to rescue chickens from battery farms; they would arrive without feathers or beaks but after a few months' convalescence in the garden they became like born-again chickens, fat and happy, with their feathers, and even beaks, regrown.

When, a couple of years ago, Ms Makin became engaged to a fellow artist, Jonathan Hills, she was delighted to be given the opportunity to look after the old house, which was becoming too much for its owner to manage. "Jonathan was fed up with London and getting really wistful," she says. "It couldn't have happened at a better time. He adores the place as much as I do. We even spent our honeymoon there."

The 400-year-old hall-style house in Kent is "remote and not at all picturesque", Mrs Hills says. "The area has a rough edge to it, and does not correspond with the London notion of 'country', which is a myth in any case, because it's not gentrified."

The views across the fields to the flint church are bleak, grass grows up the middle of the road, the huge roof, as deep as the house itself, is full of bats. "Which is just what we like about it," she adds.

The Hills have a house in Wandsworth, south London, "formal and turpentine-free", and a studio in Kensington. Mr Hills is a figurative painter, a book illustrator and a partner in a television special effects business in Soho, The Frame Store. He co-directed *Una Stravaganza dei Medici*, a Channel 4 opera which won the Prix Italia Special prize last year.

Lucy Makin, as she continues to be known professionally, works to commission, specialising in antiqued canvasses, "like weathered frescoes", which incorporate her own architectural drawings, old maps and bas relief, and are either for wall hanging or wrapping around pieces of furniture or folding screens.

"Watching someone paint, it appears idyllic and relaxed, but it's not. It's very hard work," Mrs Hills says. "We hate London; it's like a massive car park. It's so depressing and it's difficult to feel inspired there.

"Kent is where we make most of our preliminary studies — and full paintings, too, if we have time enough. Otherwise we take them back to London to finish them off."

Mr Hills says: "You need to get away from the distractions, from the place where you pay the bills and do the deals in order to paint. I like the scale of the landscape, the feel of the village — cosy under vast skies, and the fact that the pub is only 150 yards from the house."

In winter they light the big inglenook fire in the hall and make comforting food, such as dumplings and steamed puddings. "In the evening, if friends are staying, we have lovely sing-songs round the piano; old sentimental things like "Early One Morning" and "Danny Boy". Our friends would be much too shy to do something like that in London." Mrs Hills has perfect pitch and an equal facility with the piano, cello and guitar.

In summer they take their easels into the garden, still bursting with aquilegia and roses, and for three weeks "fluorescent pink poppies". He mows and she weeds. Their friends get a crash course on the joy of horticulture. "I like seeing crusty, clever people doing a bit of manual labour and enjoying it," Mr Hills says.

TED BATH

Lucy Makin, Jonathan Hills, Jezzle, and the house that "creaks like a boat"

Like the other ten houses in the village, their house is built of ship's timbers, hauled from Whitstable eight miles away, and with the shipwright's marks still clearly visible on the beams. "The house creaks and groans at night like an old boat on the water," Mrs Hills says.

'I like seeing crusty, clever people doing a bit of manual labour and enjoying it'

There are two large sitting rooms, three bedrooms and a tiny kitchen where Mrs Hills, with justifiable pride, cooks for 12 on two Baby Bellings. The floorboards are all old oak, "so there's no anxiety about getting mud on the carpet". The Biedermeier sofa is covered in ancient fabric "which is falling apart, so there's no worry about that either". Heavy old curtains in red and gold damask hang on poles in all the rooms.

"We have tried to keep the house as it was," Mrs Hills says. "We use the same feather beds that have been here for the past hundred years."

The beds also find favour with Jezzle, their West Highland terrier. But her delight is the house mouse. "She will spend an entire weekend beside the wainscoting waiting for it to come out," Mrs Hills says.

Jezzle understands a thing or two about the logistics of a home from home: "When we're getting ready to leave she rushes off to bury her bone from lunch in the garden," Mrs Hills says. "The first thing she does when we come back is to dig it up. She knows she's coming back."

ELUNED PRICE

Farmer's diary: Paul Heiney

Mourning after the joy before

Some unsuspected scent in the air, or warmth in the wind, must have set an alarm bell ringing this week and galvanised me into a frenzy of farming activity.

In the spring, a farmer's fancy turns to thoughts of grass. To most town dwellers, grass has little romance about it, being merely a patch of annoying stuff which you have to mow. To farmers with livestock, however, a field of growing grass spells freedom, for when the grass is growing thick and fast, stock that has been confined all winter can be liberated to feast upon it and get fat. The season of bucket and bale carting will be over, the months of trudging through the mire of manure will be done, and the farmer will feel his holiday has begun.

The stock quite like it, too. So, with the warmth of the sun on my back for the first time this year, I harnessed Star and Blue, my Suffolk Punches, and went to harrow the meadows. Harrows are the farming equivalent of the garden rake: they are spiky, heavy, and as the carthorses drag them over the sward they rip out the dead growth of the previous season so that light and moisture can get down to the roots.

To transport the harrows up the lane without putting the horses into cart harness, I have built a sledge: an old door fixed on two log runners. Onlookers wondered aloud whether I now regarded the wheel as too new-fangled. I ignored them and got on with the job.

When harrows break the blades of grass a heady scent rises, more intoxicating than the nose of a vintage wine. Tractor drivers would miss it, being enclosed in a cab and in front of the action, but as I plod behind my horses I am exposed to the full boozy waft of it.

I have learnt in my short farming career, however, that it never pays to get drunk on success. Farms have ways of sobering their masters. When I returned to the stockyard with the horses, out of the corner of my eye I glimpsed a ewe and knew she was not long for this world. Shepherds say that "sheep have only one ambition in life, and that is to die", and here was the proof. This poor animal, heavy in lamb, was swaying on her feet, eyes glazed and staring, waiting for death. There was no point in calling the vet. I offered her feed but she showed no interest, and when she lay down it was clear she would never get up. So I was left with a corpse.

I remembered a discreet advertisement that used to appear in our local newspaper: "All classes of fallen stock removed." The ad was placed by the local hunt, which took away dead animals, such as my ewe, butchered them, cooked them and fed them to the hounds. You may find this distasteful, but as a method of disposal it had a lot going for it. There was no risk of infected animals littering the countryside, no danger of rotting corpses being buried near streams which provide drinking water; it also meant that valuable animals which could provide meat for humans were not being killed merely to feed dogs. The method was cheap, clean and relatively dignified. But no longer. I made a few calls and discovered that the dead hand of Brussels has pole-axed the animal disposal business. New rules, some unnecessarily tough, require hygiene standards far higher than most hunt kennels can afford or need; the same rules which are forcing small, and arguably more humane local abattoirs to disappear. However, where there's livestock there will be dead stock, and the disposal of "fallen" animals is becoming a big problem.

Dead stock were often processed for bonemeal and factories collected them, but fears about bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) have brought that to an end. Hides and fleeces used to have some value, but not now because of cheap imports.

The problem is getting desperate. There are reports of dead sheep and cows being dumped by Scottish roadsides, thus shifting the disposal problem from the farmer to the council. What can the hill farmers do? They often farm on soils only inches deep over rock. They cannot afford to have the carcasses carted away.

One dead ewe is no problem for us. I dug a grave in a disused corner of the farm, harnessed a horse and loaded the sheep on to my sledge. In a sombre procession the three of us made our way across the fields. The joy of a morning on the meadows was gone; one harrowing experience had made way for another.

Feather report

Tickers let the train take the eye-strain

I have already achieved the ambition of a lifetime this year: I saw avocets from a train window. I was travelling from Penzance to Exeter, and this run offers some of the best opportunities in Britain for the esoteric and beautiful pursuit of train-birding.

There are about 20 miles of sea, turning into the Exe estuary, and there are always plenty of birds about, particularly in winter. The best way to watch the Exe is to remain motionless over a telescope for hours at a time. Train-birding, done with the naked eye at 50mph or so, is a serious test of observation skills. Your chances of identifying anything smaller than a blackbird are minimal. Birds with bold or, better, boldly contrasting plumage are easiest: oystercatcher, greater black-backed gull.

Mainly, you are down to jizz — the art of identifying a bird while seeing it badly. When your viewing time is reduced to a few nanoseconds, you have no time for analysis. A shape, a vague idea of pattern, and the bird is gone.

I have seen avocet on the Exe before, but only through a telescope while on foot. From the train, I saw a tight raft of 50 white shapes, floating on the surface, all taking to the air in sudden alarm; the calligraphic black pattern on their white backs as familiar to me as the coat of the cat that sits on my desk, for I spent much of last spring and summer in the company of avocets.

This, I thought, was something long desired, at last achieved: the ultimate train-tick.

The fastidious may find something frivolous about all this. And since this column tends to curl its lip at the excesses of the twitchers, I could be accused of inconsistency. But no matter: a train-tick is still a train-tick.

I remember being asked in a a questionnaire how often I went birdwatching. Wrong thinking: no real birder is ever wholly off-duty. Birding is one of the pleasures of being alive: an eye and an ear ever open to birds enhances all of life, not just the days you go on safari.

Now we see it, now we don't: fleeting glimpse of a hen harrier

Part of this is serious, not because my observations are of any use to science, but because awareness of wildlife seems to me an essential part of the way a sane person faces life. Seriousness does not rule out laughter, however, let alone joy.

Twitchers are called the train-spotters of the birding world: well, train-birding takes that nonsense a stage further. One of the pleasures is that a train-tick can never be verified. A friend of mine claims a purple heron overflying a train between Sandy in Bedfordshire and King's Cross, but he knows he can never be 100 per cent certain.

Ah, but I'm 99 per cent certain of this one. I was travelling to Hereford races at the time, on the line from Newport, and I saw something that has, I fear, even replaced the avocet as top train-tick.

I saw it for less than half a second, but am morally certain of it: a vast, reddy-brown shape on ragged wings starting into the air beside the track, not ten yards from the train. A bird of prey, obviously. It had the jizz of a harrier: and I have seen harriers all year at the Minsmere reserve in Suffolk. I saw, without any doubt, a white ring around the base of the tail: that gives you the hen harrier.

The white ring would not be enough to convince, let alone interest, the rarities committee and, in theory, it could have been a still rarer bird: a rough-legged buzzard. But we train-tickers make our own rules, and I am happy with my hen harrier. I don't get a winner like that every time I go racing.

Train-birding is silly. It is also a deeply moral business, for birds are there to enjoy as well as to study and to save. But I don't think you can count a train-tick if you have pulled the communication cord.

SIMON BARNES

● **What's about:** *Birders — listen for woodpeckers: distinguish lesser-spotted from greater-spotted by quieter, more rapid and sustained drumming. Green woodpecker does not drum, but very audible laughing ("yaffling") call. Twitchers — American wigeon in County Cork, snow goose and whistling swan in County Wexford. Details from Birdline 0898 700222.*

Country events

THIS WEEKEND

☐ **Threatened species week:** Gallery display with information on birds, mammals, reptiles and insects threatened with extinction. Craft activities for children.
Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Arundle, West Sussex (0903 883355). Daily, 9.30am-5.30pm, last entry 4pm; £3, child £1.50.

☐ **Canal capers:** Craftsmen demonstrate the art of painting canal boats.
Tunnel End Canal and Countryside Centre, Waters Road, Marsden, near Huddersfield. Tomorrow, 1-5pm: free.

☐ **Dolls and miniatures fair:** More than 50 stands with collectors' dolls and houses.
Dunham Massey, Altrincham, Cheshire. Today, tomorrow, 10am-4.30pm: free.

☐ **Walks:** Today, Witton Gilbert and the Lanchester Valley Railway — a five-mile walk. Meet at car park near Witton Gilbert church, Co. Durham, ref: GR235456, 2pm. Tomorrow, Ringstone roundabout — a ten-mile hard walk. Meet at Wood Edge car park, Scammonden Dam, near Huddersfield, 10am.

NEXT WEEK

☐ **National Trust concert:** Royal Exchange musicians; Beethoven, Dvořák and Mozart.
Dunham Massey, Altrincham, Cheshire. Fri, 8.15pm; £9 (bookable, 061-941 1025).

☐ **Beautiful homes and gardens exhibition:** Displays at the 18th century orangery include garden furniture, landscape architecture, interior design, furniture, painting and ceramics.
Margam Park, Port Talbot, West Glamorgan (0639 881635). Fri-Sun, 10.30am-6pm; £2, accompanied child under 16 free.

JUDY FROSHAUG

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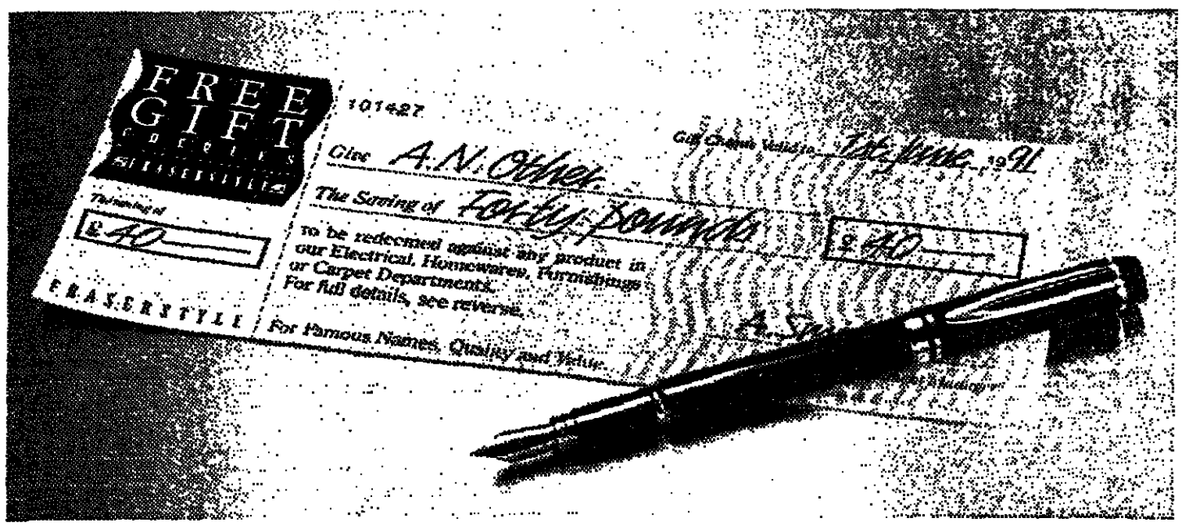

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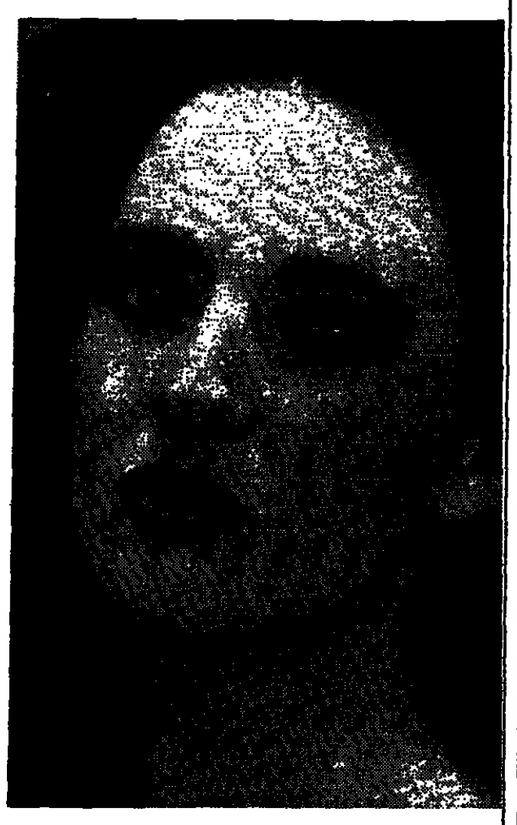

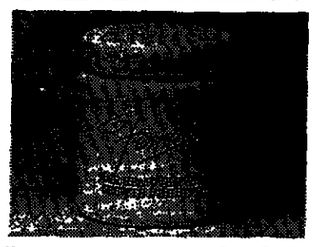

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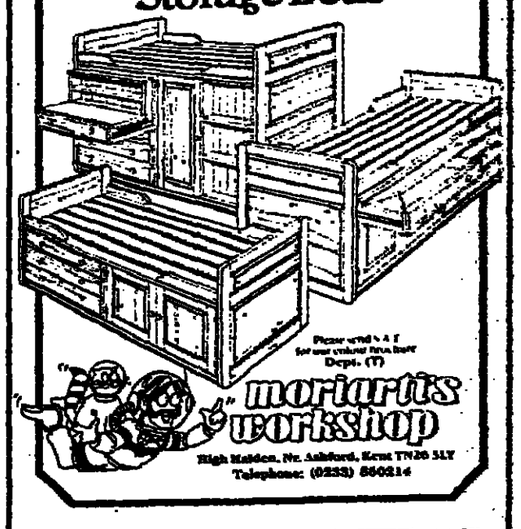

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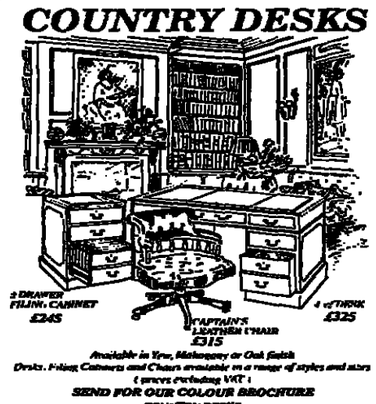

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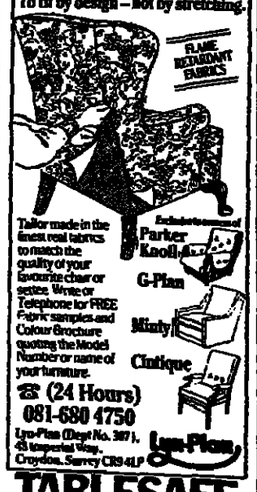

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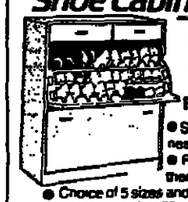

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The Kitchen Sink unplugged

Two dealers are gambling on reviving interest in the Fifties' school of socialist realism. Sarah Jane Checkland reports

Of the two John Bratby paintings of lavatories, the more luxurious one, equipped with paper, has found a Hollywood-based buyer at £6,000. A portrait by Jack Smith of a putty-coloured child staggering its first steps may not be for sale because its owner, Julian Hartnoll, the dealer, is considering salting it away while prices rise. This leaves a miscellany of bicycles, an abattoir, various skeletons, bullfights and flowers awaiting new owners, at prices from £2,000 to £40,000.

These are the works in the first exhibition for 30 years of the Kitchen Sink school of painting, an art movement which, boosted by the art critic John Berger's appreciation of its socialist realism, enjoyed a flush of fame in the mid Fifties, only to be washed down the pipes, and into the Tate Gallery's cellars, with the arrival of American abstract expressionism.

Now two London dealers have gathered together works from the school at the Mayor Gallery in London, from March 20. Two other exhibitions are being devoted to the most flamboyant of the sink quarter: the grand old man of kitsch, Bratby.

The Mayor exhibition, "The Kitchen Sink Painters", results from a truce between Mr Hartnoll and Andrew Murray of the Mayor. Finding themselves bidding six years ago at Sotheby's for Smith's baby painting, they formed a non-competition pact, and proceeded to corner what was a non-existent market. Now they are hoping to revive these pallid products of post-war Britain: visual art's equivalent of the Angry Young Men. The plan is undoubtedly helped by the argument that Kitchen Sink has historical importance to art, as a predecessor to Pop Art, and a timely protest against the powers of the "sober, restrained and gentlemanly form of realism associated with the Euston Road school", as Frances Spalding calls it in the catalogue.

The question is whether there is a market today for the "certain tough melancholy that admits no despair", as Bratby has called it. Mr Hartnoll and Mr Murray are labouring against a number of odds. First, the four-member "movement" — Bratby, Smith, Derrick Greaves and Edward Middleditch — had no manifesto and no shared style. All they had in common was shared studenthood at the Royal College of Art, a mentor in the form of the eccentric dealer/artist Helen Lessore (who slept amid their works at her Beaux Arts Gallery in Mayfair), and a shared but undefined socialism-cum-resentment against the status quo.

Although the paintings have a strong design element, apart from domestic detail, they crawl with egocentricity, frustration and lack of humour.

One thing the group did agree on was to disagree with the label "Kitchen Sink". Greaves said: "The wretched critics' term haunts us all, seeking its encapsulating vengeance." Smith, in the late Fifties, turned to abstraction and stayed there, refusing to discuss his Kitchen Sink work.

The term Kitchen Sink was, as with many art movements, coined in a derisory critique. You can find everything in these pictures, wrote David Sylvester in 1954, adding, with Smith's painting in mind, "the kitchen sink, too".

Establishment recognition reached a peak when the group was selected to represent Britain at the Venice Biennale in 1956. However, when the Tate opened "Modern Art in the United States" that year, a room of abstract expressionist paintings proved enough to turn off the public's ardour for Bratby and his friends. Soon Mr Berger produced a series of articles attacking Smith and Bratby.

In 1959 the artist and academic Sir William Coldstream produced the report which turned British fine art training away from the Euston Road tradition, towards abstraction and conceptualism. The 1964 appointment of the pro-abstraction Sir Norman Reid as director of the Tate was the final nail in the coffin.

Now we must wait and see whether the the wheel of taste has turned full-circle.

The prices for Greaves, Smith and Middleditch are difficult to assess because their works are relatively rare. Mr Hartnoll bought *Bedsprings, Chair, Flowers* by Middleditch, an unusually aesthetic work for the group, five years ago for the "lower thousands" at Sotheby's, bidding against the Tate. He is now asking £30,000 for it. The Smith, over which he and Mr Murray fought, is £20,000.

Until they came along, the prices for Bratby, a prolific artist who has exhibited at the Royal Academy summer exhibition annually since 1960, performed as follows:

1960 (when he was the most famous living British artist): £200 to £300 *(The Artist Painting a Picture)*;

1970: £200 to £300 *(Gloria Smiling; Judy Demure)*;

1980: £655 *(Giant Sunflowers)*;

1990: £5,000 (Various paintings of Venetian scenes).

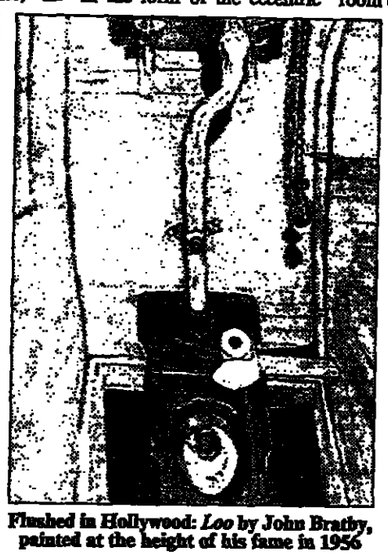
The Albemarle Gallery is asking £2,400-£3,000 for this year's products at its exhibition of strange multiple portraits of Bratby's current wife, grinning from split leather bodices, and the Mayor is asking £6,000 for a Fifties *Sunflowers*, £8,500 for *Sicily* and £20,000 for the huge *Painting*, featuring repeated images of a single model, and various repeated parts of the artist's body as he paints.

Bratby could be Mr Hartnoll's biggest gamble. Since his fall from critical favour in 1956, Bratby has continued to paint prolifically, defiantly, constantly out-stripping himself in respect of garishness and crudity of subject matter. His work inspires mockery and admiration equally.

"I admired him and was intrigued by the way he went out of fashion," says Mr Hartnoll. He approached Bratby two years ago and was persuaded to buy hundreds of drawings from the Fifties onwards. We could now be faced with the prospect of the exhibition luring more from the woodwork, and the Kitchen Sink revival turning into a flood.

● *"The Kitchen Sink Painters", Mayor Gallery, 22a Cork Street, London W1 (071-734 3558), from March 20. "John Bratby Portraits", National Portrait Gallery, 2 St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-306 0055), until May 27. "John Bratby Venice: the Hemingway Suite", Albemarle Gallery, 18 Albemarle Street, W1 (071-355 1880), to April 5.*

● *In* The Times Saturday Review *today, Alan Franks writes about John Bratby's house.*



Flushed in Hollywood: *Loo* **by John Bratby, painted at the height of his fame in 1956**

The question is whether there is a market for the 'certain tough melancholy that admits no despair'

Reflection of the Fifties: these days Jack Smith refuses to talk about his Kitchen Sink work

Mystery rock lifts gloom

Review

☐ **True blue:** Christie's brightened the art market gloom yesterday by announcing plans to sell the largest sapphire ever to come to auction. The size of a plover's egg, the dark blue stone weighs 337.6 carats and is estimated at £1 million. It will be offered in Geneva on May 16 by a mystery Englishwoman, described by Raymond Sancroft-Baker of Christie's as a "very modest ordinary country lady in her late eighties, living in a humble little house". The jewel came to its present owner around 1930.

☐ **Top pot:** An English Delft teapot broke the record for teapots when a rare example in globular form, painted with whorl and lozenge-shaped motifs, fetched £23,100 (four times the estimate) at Phillips. The buyer was Alistair Sampson, the London dealer.

☐ **Classy cuts:** A unique archive of more than 100 pattern books fetched £97,700, or three times its estimate, at Christie's South Kensington. The Victoria & Albert museum paid £1,650 (on top estimate) for an assortment of furnishing textiles and "sanitary paper hangings", while Colefax & Fowler paid £1,045 (estimate £200-£300) for *Light Fancies 1874*, approximately 1,725 patterns massed at six per page. Dating from the mid-1800s to the 1960s, the archive was from the Manchester firm of Lockett and Crossland.

Preview

☐ **Today:** Among the antique and modern furniture in a sale at Mainstreet Trading of Melrose are two splendid 6ft long lions made of Scottish Garnkirk fireclay. There are also a number of rare cars from the Thirties and Forties.

☐ **Monday:** A 3pm start seems quite a challenge for a 900-lot sale, but that is when the Wealden Auction starts in the Cranbrook Vestry Hall. There are guns, fishing rods and golf clubs as well as paintings, furniture and objets d'art.

☐ **Tuesday:** There is a good selection of Windsor chairs in the furniture sale at Aldridges in Bath, 10am.

☐ **Wednesday:** Musical instruments and bows by good makers from at least 1710 to 1979 at Phillips in London 11am. In Torquay, Bearne's has silver at 10am and jewels at 1pm. At Sotheby's Sussex there are massed miniatures at 2pm.

☐ **Thursday:** A busy day at Christie's South Kensington, with British and continental ceramics at 10.30am and 2pm, and further sales of cameras and optical toys, and picture frames and artists' materials, both at 2pm. A Noddy coin-in-the-slot stereo viewer is included, along with the Leicas (up to £1,000). In a furniture sale at Bletchingley, Lawrences has an unusual William IV music stool/-chair.

☐ **Friday:** Eighteenth and 19th century sand pictures are generally attributed to "Zobel", but it is not always clear which members of this artistic family were responsible. There is a good one of a Stubbs-like lion in a Phillips sale at Ringwood (up to £400).

☐ *Mainstreet Trading, Main Street, St Boswells, Melrose (0835 23978). Wealden Auction Galleries, 23 Hendley Drive, Cranbrook, Kent (0580 714522). Aldridges, 130-132 Walcot Street, Bath (0225 462830). Bearne's, Rainbow, Avenue Road, Torquay (0803 296277). Sotheby's, Summers Place, Billingshurst, Sussex (0403 783933). Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, W1 (071-629 6602). Christie's South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, SW7 (071-581 7611). Lawrences, 80 High Street, Bletchingley, Surrey (0883 743323). Phillips, 54 Southampton Road, Ringwood, Hants (0425 473333).*

Blasting from the past

Guns

When Sir Joseph Nickerson was taken to hospital after being accidentally shot by Lord Whitelaw in 1984, the surgeon was horrified to see on the X-ray a constellation of shot spreading much further than the wound. The patient reassured him that this was due to the amount of game he had eaten recently.

The anecdote perfectly evokes Sir Joseph, or Partridge Joe, as he was nicknamed: a spats-wearing blood-sports enthusiast (188,000 birds shot during his lifetime) and animal lover.

Now, a year after his death at 75, Christie's is offering a chance for shooting friends (who included the Dukes of Edinburgh and Westminster, and Lords Prior and Forte), as well as enthusiasts who have waded through the turgid leaves of his book, *A Shooting Man's Creed*, to buy some of his famous guns.

Shooting being the second biggest participation sport in Britain after fishing, the auction of 28 lots is estimated at £250,000.

Apart from being a stickler for etiquette on the shoot ("We all know the feeling on spotting a well-known greedy shot: I hope I'm not drawn next to him!" he wrote), Sir Joseph had a preference for light, narrow-bore guns with over-and-under barrels (rather than side-by-side), because of their ease of handling.

The collection ranges from rifles used for vermin to what Americans call "gingerbread guns", whose appeal is in the ornateness of their engravings. These are mainly British examples built in the Twenties, Thirties and Forties — a golden age for gunmaking — some engraved with the bold scrolls of Holland & Holland, some resembling an aerial view of a stately garden, by J. Purdey. "These are works of art," says Christopher Austyn, a Christie's expert.

Included in the collection are a number of sidelock ejector guns by Woodward, Sir Joseph's favourite maker, at £8,000 to £12,000. The highest estimate is for a trio of his much-loved lightweight Purdey 20 and 28-bore guns, handmade to order and completed in 1977 (estimated at £50,000 to £80,000).

A number of lots, such as a 12-bore over-and-under sidelock ejector gun by J. Purdey (estimated at up to £30,000), are catalogued "the gun appears to be virtually unused". Having being tailor-made for him, the stocks of Sir Joseph's guns will have to be adjusted by their makers for their new owners. Some guns are understood to have been kept back by his family.

Christie's caution about the estimates is partly because of prevailing market conditions, and partly because of the crushing effect on the gun market of the Hungerford massacre four years ago. As a result, the Fire Arms Amendment Act of 1988 made ownership of guns more difficult, and people decided to offload them en masse. "We had low quality guns coming on to the market we couldn't sell, and a lot more decent guns where owners couldn't see the point of owning them any more," Mr Austyn says.

Likewise, the anti-blood sports lobby has been influencing public attitudes, and last November the National Trust passed a resolution recommending a ban on deer hunting on trust land. Sir Joseph's admirers point out, however, that despite his trigger-happy lifestyle, he was a founder member of the World Wildlife Fund (now the World Wide Fund for Nature), as well as the Joseph Nickerson Heather Improvement Foundation, designed to protect moorland and provide a more effective management of sheep and grouse on his estates at Rothwell, Lincolnshire and County Durham.

The happiest gun investors bought in the Sixties and sold in the Eighties. The prospects are now, Mr Austyn says, "long term". The best bet is to buy a top quality gun for as little as possible and keep it for some years. The world record of £121,000 was reached in 1989 for a pair of gold side-by-side guns engraved by the English craftsman, Ken Hunt.

Lately the strongest buyers have been the Americans, and Mr Austyn hopes that, with the Gulf war over, they will be in good bidding form again.

S.J.C.

● *Sir Joseph Nickerson's collection of modern sporting guns is at Christie's King Street (071-839 9060) on Wednesday.* A Shooting Man's Creed *is published by Sidgwick & Jackson, price £16.95.*

JOHN MANNING

Bidders in his sights: Christopher Austyn of Christie's with Sir Joseph Nickerson's collection

Partridge Joe was an animal lover and blood sports enthusiast who shot 188,000 birds

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Sunday 10 March 11.30 am — PURCELL QUARTET. Sunday Morning Coffee Concert. Vivaldi Morning. Vivaldi: Trio Sonata in C RV82; Trio Sonata in B minor Op. 1 No. 11 79; Vivaldi/Bach: Concerto in D BWV972; Vivaldi: Sonata for 2 violins in F RV68, Variations on "La Folia". £5 including programme & coffee/sherry/juice.

Sunday 10 March Matinée time: 4 pm — AURYN QUARTET OF COLOGNE. International Chamber Music Series. NB: Change of Artists and Programme. Haydn: Quartet in B flat Op. 71 No. 1; Britten: Quartet No. 3 Op. 94; Beethoven: Quartet No. 15 in F Op. 135. £9.00, £7.50, £6.00, £4.50 Holt

Monday 11 March 7.30 pm — THE ACADEMY OF ANCIENT MUSIC. CHRISTOPHER HOGWOOD director, MELVYN TAN fortepiano. Haydn: Symphony No. 49 in F; Piano Concerto in D; Piano Sonata in B minor; Symphony No. 72 in D. £12, £10, £8, £6

Tuesday 12 March 7.30 pm — ROMANESCA. Early Music & Baroque Series. Andrew Manze baroque violin / Nigel North theorbo/archlute / John Toll organ/hpsd. Matteis's Grand Tour. Schmelzer: Sonata, Ucceellini: Toccata "La Lauza Filucarna". Corelli: "La Folia" Op. 5 No. 12. Merlini: Sonata. Lully: Dances (trans D'Anglebert & Viols) £10, £8, £6, £5

Wednesday 13 March 7.30 pm — SOPHIE ROLLAND cello, MARC-ANDRE HAMELIN piano. Beethoven: The complete works for piano & cello, 1. Sonata in F Op. 5 No. 1. Sonata in G minor Op. 5 No. 2. Sonata in A Op. 69. Second concert: 21 March. £8, £7, £6, £5 Jane Gray

Thursday 14 March 7.30 pm — JOSEF PROTSCHKA tenor. HELMUT DEUTSCH piano. Song Recital Series. Mendelssohn: Songs to texts by Heine & Eichendorff. Tchaikovsky: Five songs; Dvorak: Liebeslieder Op. 83. £12, £10, £8 (all others sold) Holt

Friday 15 March 7.30 pm — KEVIN KENNER piano Winner 1990 Int'l Terence Judd Award, Winner 1990 Warsaw Int'l Chopin Piano Competition. Chopin: Ballade No. 4 Op. 52; 4 Mazurkas; Scherzo No. 2 Op. 39; Andante Spianato & Grande Polonaise Brillante Op. 22; Ravel: Valses nobles et sentimentales, La Valse. £7, £6, £5, £4 Hallé Concert Society

Saturday 16 March 7.30 pm — NASH ENSEMBLE. Edinburgh Festival 1990 Critics' Award Prog. Antony Pay clar / Brian Wightman bsn / Frank Lloyd hrn / Marcia Crayford, Elizabeth Layton vlns / Roger Chase vla / Christopher Van Kampen cello / Rodney Slatford bass. Strauss: Till Eulenspiegel. Mozart: Horn Quintet K407, Schubert: Octet D803 £9, £7.50, £6, £4.50

Sunday 17 March 11.30 am — MARTINU QUARTET. Sunday Morning Coffee Concert. Dvorak: Quartet in A flat Op. 105; Tchaikovsky: Quartet No. 1 in D Op. 11 (with "Andante Cantabile"). £5 including programme & coffee/sherry/juice.

Monday 18 March 7.30 pm — GUNDULA JANOWITZ soprano. CHARLES SPENCER piano. Song Recital Series. Schubert Programme. ALL SEATS SOLD (returns only) Holt

Tuesday 19 March 7.30 pm — ALFRED BRENDEL piano. London Pianoforte Series. Mozart Bicentenary Concert. Mozart: Sonata in E flat K282; Rondo in A minor K511; Sonata in F K533/494; Fantasia in C minor K475, Adagio in B minor K540; Sonata in C minor K457. ALL SEATS SOLD (returns only) limit of two tickets per person. Handel All Seats £8

Wednesday 20 March 7.30 pm — MICHAEL CHANCE countertenor, MALCOLM MARTINEAU piano. Handel: Italian arias; Butterworth: A Shropshire Lad; Schubert: 4 Lieder; Britten: A Charm of Lullabies. £10, £8, £6, £5 Lies Askonas Ltd

Thursday 21 March 7.30 pm — SOPHIE ROLLAND cello, MARC-ANDRE HAMELIN piano. Beethoven: The complete works for piano & cello, 2. 7 Vars on "Bei Männern", 12 Vars on "Ein Mädchen oder Weibchen", (from Mozart's "Die Zauberflöte"); Sonata Op 102 Nos. 1 & 2; Vars on a theme from Handel's "Judas Maccabaeus". £8, £7, £6, £5 Jane Gray

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Tomor 10 Mar 4.00pm — ELGAR: THE DREAM OF GERONTIUS Westminster Philharmonic Orchestra, Jonathan Butcher cond. Amanda Gunston contralto, John Graham-Hall tenor John Noble bass Westminster Festival Chorus £12 £10 £8 £6 £4 *British Council for the Prevention of Blindness*

Tomor 10 Mar 7.45pm — MOZART 200 – English Chamber Orchestra, Trevor Pinnock cond. Marisa Robles harp, William Bennett flute, Gordon Hunt oboe, Thea King clarinet, Robin O'Neill bassoon, Frank Lloyd horn Mozart: Symphony in C, K213c; Sinfonia Concertante for Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon and Horn, K297b, Concerto for Flute and Harp, K299; Symphony No 31, K297, Paris £13 ONLY *SPONSORED BY PIONEER HIGH FIDELITY (GB.) LIMITED*

Mon 11 Mar 7.45pm — VIENNA SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Great Orchestras of the World Nikolaus Harnoncourt cond. Mozart: Symphony No 35, K385 *Haffner*; Symphony No 36, K425 *Linz*; Symphony No 38, K504 *Prague* £20 £16 £12 £8 £5 *Harold Holt Ltd. in association with the Barbican Centre*

Tue 12 Mar 7.45pm — BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Mark Wigglesworth cond Wagner: Prelude to Act 1 of *Parsifal* Howard Skempton: Lento (BBC Commission, World Premiere) Mahler: Symphony No 10 £16 £12 £8 £3.50

Wed 13 Mar 7.45pm — MOZART 200 – Viktor Liberman violin Yuri Bashmet viola. Mozart: Symphony No 33, K319; Sinfonia Concertante for Violin and Viola, K364; Serenade No 9, K320 *Posthorn* £15 £13 £11 £9 £6 *SPONSORED BY PIONEER HIGH FIDELITY (GB.) LIMITED*

Thu 14 Mar 8.00pm — GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA THE LEGEND LIVES ON directed by Ray McKay with Tony Mansell, The Moonlight Serenaders and The Uptown Gang Prog. inc. *'In the Mood', 'Tuxedo Junction', 'Moonlight Serenade'* £14.50 £13.50 £12.50 £9.50 £7.50 *Raymond Gubbay Ltd*

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Sun 17 Mar 3.00pm — SUNDAY AFTERNOON TEA CONCERT London Mozart Players. Howard Shelley piano/cond Philippa Davies flute Mendelssohn: Hebrides Ov. Mozart: Piano Concerto No 23, K488; Malcolm Arnold: Flute Concerto No.1 Schubert: Symphony No. 6 £15 £13 £11 £9 £8 £6 £4.50 *SPONSORED BY RIDGWAYS ORGANICALLY GROWN TEA*

Sun 17 Mar 7.30pm — LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos cond. Albeniz: *Granada* and *Sevilla* from Suite Espanola; Corpus and Titina from Suite Iberia Falla: Three Cornered Hat Suites Nos 1 & 2 Beethoven: Symphony No 5 £25 £18.50 £14 £11 £8 £5 *LSO Ltd SPONSORED BY NIKON UK AND NIKON AG ZURICH*

Mon 18 Mar 7.00pm — CITY SCHOOLS CONCERT Combined choirs, bands and orchestras City of London School, City of London School for Girls and City of London Freemen's School. Works by Brahms, Matthew Taylor (UK premiere), Mozart, Berlioz, Handel All Seats £8

Tue 19 Mar 7.45pm — ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Andrew Litton cond Bernadette Greevy mezzo Elgar: In the South (Alassio) Mahler: Kindertoten lieder Strauss: Also Sprach Zarathustra £18 £15 £12 £8 £5 *SPONSORED BY NORSKE SKOG (U.K.) LTD. RPO Ltd*

Wed 20 Mar 7.45pm — LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA Sir Georg Solti cond Marjana Lipovsek mezzo, Philip Langridge tenor. Mozart: Symphony No.40, K550 Mahler: Das Lied von der Erde £27.50 £21 £15 £12 £8.50 £5 *SPONSORED BY PHILIPS ELECTRONICS LSO Ltd*

Thu 21 Mar 7.45pm — BERGEN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Dmitri Kitaenko cond Dang Thai Son piano Mendelssohn: Symphony No 3 *Scottish* Grieg: Piano Concerto Stravinsky: Firebird Suite (1919) £15 £13 £11.50 £10 £8.50 £5 *Van Walsum Management*

Fri 22 Mar 7.45pm — ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA Andrew Litton cond. Ann Murray mezzo. Elgar: Ov. Cockaigne Mahler: Ruckertlieder Strauss: Ein Heldenleben £18 £15 £12 £8 £5 *SPONSORED BY NEC RPO Ltd*

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Continued on page 13

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MENDELSSOHN ..... Overture, The Hebrides
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BRUCH ..... Violin Concerto No.1
BEETHOVEN ..... Symphony No.3 "Eroica"

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THE FOUR SEASONS

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ALBINONI ..... Adagio
MOZART ..... Piano Concerto in C, K.467
VIVALDI ..... The Four Seasons

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MONDAY 1 APRIL at 7.30 p.m.

MENDELSSOHN ..... Overture, The Hebrides
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GRIEG ..... Piano Concerto
BEETHOVEN ..... Symphony No.6 "Pastoral"

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TELEVISION REVIEW

More than obedient servants

Lynne Truss on a *Media Show* that only half investigated royal documentaries, and some minor literary revelations on *The Late Show*

One of my favourite jokes about the Queen is the one in which she visits Broadmoor, and a troubled inmate takes her aside. "I am perfectly sane," he says. "I simply shouldn't be here. Please help me." The Queen is shocked, and promises to look into the matter. At the end of the visit, she is just at the point of getting into the royal car when a brick narrowly misses her head. A voice calls out, "You won't forget, will you?"

After watching last Sunday's Media Show (Channel 4), I felt it likely that the madman was a former royal-documentary maker. The point of this rather impassioned programme – about the obsequiousness of broadcasters towards the royal family – was that, where royal documentaries are concerned, the Palace rules the waves. Broadcasters are unable to wield bricks (assuming they might want to) because all the potential missiles are stamped "Property of the Queen" and guarded by men in busbies. The Palace retains copyright on royal documentaries, and exerts editorial control over what is contained in them. When, therefore, a documentary appears showing them in a favourable hardworking light – counteracting the *après-ski*, money-for-nothing viewpoint sometimes advanced by a hardbitten British press – perhaps it is reasonable to deduce that the broadcasters are being treated as mere conduits for a publicity machine.

'Where royal documentaries are concerned, the Palace rules the waves'

As a can of worms, this issue is not of the mingy 7oz variety: it is more on the scale of a catering-size Nescafé. If those famous "fly on the wall" documentaries are just dressed-up promo videos, what does this say for journalistic objectivity? The viewing public should be alerted to the connivance. Royal films – for example, the BBC's forthcoming *H Flight*, about the Duke of York, and its big 1992 project on the Queen's fortieth anniversary as monarch – should arguably be prefaced by a disclaimer saying that they have been made under censorship restrictions, like reports from Baghdad.

All of this was quite exhilarating. A tight little, right little taboo was being rudely strip-searched on television. Renegade court reporters came clean ("I was told: you cannot go wrong if you do your interviews from a kneeling position"); and producer Tim King said that his documentary on Princess Anne was, with hindsight, a "lie". We learned that *The Media Show* had been denied access to a clip from the BBC's *Royal Family*, and for one thrilling moment it looked as though Emma Freud was going to enact the forbidden scene, complete with funny accents. But there were issues not raised here. For example: what about the dosh? Doesn't the BBC (or ITN, in the case of the Alastair Burnet *In Private, In Public*) make loads of money out of these films? Isn't this part of the *quid pro quo*? I should have liked to know. Without taking financial matters into account, the implication was that these corporation running-dogs made big-budget Buck House home movies purely out of a sense of constitutional servility, deriving for themselves only the curious personal satisfaction of seeing a job badly done.

Sometimes it seems that a fourth dimension has been added to the famous Reithian three-fold imperative about broadcasting. Programmes, it seems, should inform, educate, entertain us, *and fill us in on what writers do all day*. Personally I am glad of it, but I do wonder whether anyone else cares a jot about these deliberations. I remember once seeing a *Bookmark* item about Roald Dahl, in which it was revealed that Dahl's habit was to write in his shed, with a blanket over his knees, and his feet resting on a favourite log. I was thrilled by this information ("In the shed!" "With a blanket!" "And a log!"), but curiously I could find nobody willing to share my excitement.

This week the *Bookmark* on Kingsley Amis (BBC 2) and the *Arena* about Keith Waterhouse (BBC 2), were utterly overshadowed by a modest little item on **The Late Show** (BBC 2) about how writers get started – and how they do it. I am ashamed to admit that the idea of a series of lewd literary car-stickers occurred to me ("Ernest Hemingway did it standing up") but I banished it from my thoughts. Jeffrey Archer, it seems, starts the week by laying a neat row of seven felt-tip pens on his shining leather-topped desk, and uses one each day, writing in longhand his daily quota of a thousand words. Sally Beauman, on the other hand, uses an old Adler sit-up-and-beg typewriter, lightly dusted with fag-ash. More, I begged. Tell me more.

This feeling of being the only person interested is sometimes pleasant, sometimes terrifying. Watching the *Late Show* item, for example, I stretched my legs, sipped my special *Late Show* nightcap of Ovaltine with stirred-in Maltesers, and luxuriated in the thought, "Wow, this is all for me". Watching **The Orchid House** (Channel 4), on the other hand, the reasonable assumption that nobody else is watching leads to a quite severe existential panic. Oh my God, there has been a terrible mistake. I alone am witnessing it. But what can I do? How can I rescue Diana Quick from this awful death-in-life?

With its lugubrious plot, lotus-eating West Indian setting and preposterous dialogue, *The Orchid House* is more a hallucination than a drama series – or an obeah-induced coma, that slows down the metabolism and makes the viewer powerless to switch over. Famous actresses – well, Diana Quick, Kate Buffery, Carmen du Sautoy and Frances Barber – loom into view and withdraw again, without saying anything that sticks in the mind.

My great fear is that one of them will suddenly look out of the screen directly at me – like Jeff Daniels in *The Purple Rose of Cairo* – and say, "Hey, everyone. Look, there's a woman watching this. Why don't we arrange for her to join us here in *The Orchid House*?"

Simply another triangle of love

THEATRE

Map of the Heart
Globe

THIS was one of those occasions when it might have been better to stay in the foyer, browsing through the programme, rather than sit in the stalls watching the play. The brief extracts from Solzhenitsyn, Ratushinskaya, Primo Levi, Anthony Grey and others, told us something of what it is like, first to be unjustly imprisoned, then to cope with an unlooked-for freedom. By comparison, William Nicholson's play seems second-hand, sketchy and somewhat beside the point.

That is because imprisonment, release and the convoluted feelings they generate in Nicholson's victim are secondary to the kind of emotional geometry found in every other boulevard play 30, 40, 50 years ago. At base, *Map of the Heart* is just another triangle-drama, but one given specious piquancy because it involves that modish figure, the political hostage.

Dr Albie Steadman begins by going through something also pretty familiar to regular theatregoers, a mid-life crisis. This is apparent partly because Patrick Malahide, who plays him, does all an actor can to look woebegone and cadaverous, and partly because of what he keeps saying. He seems unable to mooch from stage left to stage right without moaning about how he wishes he was somebody else, hopes to be young before he is old, or (weirdly) feels like the Albert Memorial.

His reaction to this male menopause is twofold. First, he decides to go to the Sudan to tend the starving. Then, he falls in love with "the angel of the camps", a relief worker played with exaggerated artlessness by Susan Wooldridge. Neither event delights his wife, Sinead Cusack's Ruth. In one of the few moments when the evening flickers into life, she sends him to the airport with a stricken cry of "I'd rather you died than left me like this".

The language has its encouragingly idiosyncratic moments, but it is never again so robustly authentic. Poor Wooldridge is obliged to say things like "you know, don't you, I've not done this before, given myself all to one person". Poor Cusack must come back with "loving someone means wanting to build a world with them". Before the staging of his infinitely better study of the complexities of love, *Shadowlands*, Nicholson worked on television. He must absentmindedly have taken home a box of clichés when he cleared the pens and paper clips from his desk.

By the end of the first act, jungle drums have ominously interrupted the church music Cusack intermittently sings from behind the black-and-white stained-glass window that is intermittently lowered onto the drab living-room set. Rather more promisingly, Albie has been kidnapped by guerrillas. We see him in his cell afterwards, doing press-ups, thinking of England and preparing for death: but it is cursory, fleeting stuff. Albie's two women seem of more emotional significance to the author, confronting each other as they lengthily do on

Artless: Susan Wooldridge with Patrick Malahide

(another cliché) a TV show run by a celebrity interviewer of the uncaringly caring variety.

When Albie gets home, his "post-release trauma" seems to interest Nicholson only slightly, and then only because of its impact on the love-triangle. There is some suggestion at this point that his daughter's love for him matters, and that Ruth's puckish brother has been a destructive influence on their marriage; but neither relationship is sufficiently explored for anybody to take it seriously. By that time some of us would not have cared if Peter Wood's cast had flown off to Reno to set up a *ménage à trois, quatre* – or whatever number they felt like.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Little sparkle in Venetian eyes

OPERETTA

The Gondoliers
Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham

ONLY Birmingham would redirect baffled playgoers from a charmingly restored theatre entrance across a road and round a corner to a new annexe on a busy main street – from which, via a bridge, they regain the building they first started from. But in fairness, the Alexandra's new foyer is impressively spacious, and the auditorium is a splendid Art Deco concoction of gold and blue.

The new base of the resurrected (in 1988) D'Oyly Carte – a new home for Gilbert and Sullivan – may pose other problems. The deep grand circle looms over all but the front four rows of stalls, and some of the women soloists in particular have trouble projecting words into the unresonant acoustic. The well-drilled orchestra lacks edge and style, especially in the woodwind, that touchstone of Sullivan's delicacy.

As for the production, Tim Hopkins's unfocused contribution seems determined to replace the pretty-pretty with the ugly-ugly, or the clumsy-clumsy, starting with Nigel Lowery's sets. A raked stage is now commonplace, but a corrugated surface like frozen waves is something new. The hapless performers scramble and leap, backed by a slanted picture of Venice. Act II is a striking geometric study in black and red, but at least the tilted floor is smooth.

Flamboyant: John Rath with David Fieldsend

The production poses the question of how to fantasticate the fantastic. Gilbert and Sullivan cannot take unrestrained grotesquerie: this is no fairy story but a distorting mirror held up to an always recognisable normality. Lose sight of that and the joke becomes pointless.

Here, some isolated gags work. The haughty Casilda's whining suburban accent underlines her initial snobbery, and Elizabeth Woollett carries it off well, obsessively going through her ballet exercises and Spanish dance clichés. The Duke of Plaza-Toro is dressed as a matador; his Duchess, in trousers beneath a transparent hooped skirt, sports a coiffure of horns. Not even Richard Suart can redeem the witless "I am a courtier grave and serious", though byplay with toy corgis dressed as the monarch rub it close for sheer desperation in "A regular royal queen".

The staging engages in such gimmicks as hauling Tessa into the air like Peter Pan during "When a merry maiden marries", but then ignores much humour already there. The irony of "In a contemplative fashion", where a furious squabble is only just contained, passes unnoticed.

Heavy-handed social comment (the Baratarian court sprawls in front of the telly, surrounded by takeaway food containers) looks perfunctory. More intriguing, however exaggerated, is the vein of flamboyant theatricality tapped by John Rath's Grand Inquisitor: his chalk-white face, dark glasses and black cape provide a blend of sinister and comic – a cross between an E.T.A. Hoffmann evil genius and Jack Nicholson in *Batman*.

The conductor, John Pryce-Jones, obtains good choral singing, some untidy ensembles, and a welcome seriousness in such wistful numbers as the "Oh bury, bury" duet. David Fieldsend's tenor manages an adequate pair of sparkling eyes; but Alan Oke, his baritonal brother, has the thrust, style and polish that the rest of this confused jumble of gimmicks so sadly lacks. Good wishes for D'Oyly Carte's new start are tempered by the regret felt when any venerable centenarian throws up her skirts, kicks her legs and turns a bedizened smirk to the world in an attempt to be modern. The Church of England recently had the same trouble. Is this the real British disease?

MARTIN HOYLE

CONCERT

Philharmonia/ Giulini
Festival Hall

WITH Roger Norrington unwell, South Bank patrons this weekend will have to go to Giulini and Barenboim for their Brahms experience: tomorrow afternoon they play again their Philharmonia programme of the First Piano Concerto and the First Symphony. The omens are good. On Thursday the symphony, coming after the interval, was far more comfortable than the concerto, as if Giulini had now eased his hands into the gloves of the orchestra; the repeat performance should find everyone working together more smoothly from the start.

Of course, the Philharmonia is not unused to playing for Giulini. But his Brahms sound, with a rough fire burning under the supreme confidence, does demand a precise control of dynamics and, most particularly and problematically, a carefully judged, slight fuzziness in the ensemble.

This does not affect the strong attacks, which are vigorous and proud, but in longer lines Giulini acts like a man drawing up silk threads through water, some of them slipping over others. It is in these unobtrusive arpeggiations that the fire reveals itself. In the concerto, though, the beat was often too sloppy; the strings seemed unsettled.

Maybe an even graver awkwardness here was simply a pervasive slowness. If these were Barenboim's tempos, he failed to profit from them: this was a performance that kept sparking into life only to fall back after a few bars, and the excess pedal suggested a pianist trying to compensate for lack of authority.

The symphony seemed to belong to a different concert. Again the tempos were on the slow side, but now everything moved with ease and conviction. The slow movement sang without homogenising the variety of texture. With woodwind and, especially, horns showing through strongly, this was perhaps not, after all, so very different from what the Norrington view might have been. However, Giulini's grand cantabile is his own.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

THE SUNDAY TIMES

'It is no secret that Freddie Ayer, while he may well have been one of the great philosophers of our time, was certainly keen on female company and good at acquiring it.'

Kingsley Amis on sex, in The Sunday Times tomorrow

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BBC 1

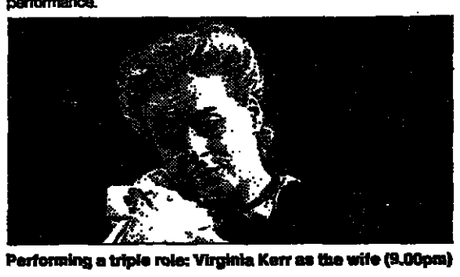
6.35 Open University: Development in a Turkish Village
7.00 News
7.10 Open University: Introduction to Pure Maths — Orthogonal Bases
7.35 Babar. Animated version of the classic children's tale about a kingdom of elephants
8.00 News 8.10 Eggs 'n' Baker. Cheryl Baker presents her unlikely combination of cookery and pop music when she serves up a special recipe to two live bands in the studio 8.50 New Yogi Bear Show
9.00 News 9.05 Going Live! Children's magazine programme presented by Phillip Schofield and Sarah Greene. Guests include environmentalist Jonathon Porritt, chat show host Terry Wogan, in the hot seat for the week's press conference, and comedienne Victoria Wood 12.12 Weather
12.15 Grandstand Introduced by Desmond Lynam. The line-up is (subject to change): 12.20 Football: previews of the weekend's FA Cup sixth round ties; 1.00 News; 1.05, 1.40 and 2.10 Golf: the European centenary skins game from Las Palmas club, Canary Islands, featuring Seve Ballesteros, Jose Maria Olazabal, Ian Woosnam and Sandy Lyle; 1.25, 1.55 and 2.25 Racing from Chepstow followed by a Cheltenham preview; 2.50 Rugby League: highlights of the first half and live coverage of the second in the Silk Cut Challenge cup third round game between Warrington and Widnes; 3.50 Football half-times; 4.00 Athletics: the world indoor championships from Seville; 4.35 Final Score
5.10 News and weather
5.30 Regional News and sport. Wales: (to 5.30) Wales on Saturday
5.35 Tom and Jerry Triple Bill. Cartoons
5.55 Jim'll Fix It. Jimmy Savile makes dreams come true for a 15-year-old boy who wants to fly a helicopter, and for a woman who has a song devoted to her name. The result is a haunting lyrical ballad entitled Sharon, crooned by Vince Hill. (Ceefax)
6.30 'Allo 'Allo! Frangtais farce in which the very predictability of the jokes is funny in itself. The British airmen are stuck down the drain in the village square and René plans to rescue them using an old ice-cream van. (Ceefax)
7.00 Bergerac: The Lohans. Apart from a Christmas special this is positively the last appearance of John Nettles as sunny Jim Bergerac, the Jersey investigator. But they dropped the series once before, only to bring it back in face of a public outcry. Given the recent standard, such popular clamour is unlikely to be repeated. In tonight's yarn Jim is entrusted with guarding a set of priceless porcelain figures which cheerful Charlie Hungerford has decided to bid for. Guess what happens to them. (Ceefax)
7.55 Film: Clue (1985). The comedy-whodunit based loosely on the board game Cluedo, featuring Colonel Mustard, Miss Scarlet and so on, became famous for the three different endings provided. All three solutions are screened tonight. Tim Curry stars as the outrageous camp butler, with Madeline Kahn, Christopher Lloyd ("Doc" in the *Back To The Future* films), Lesley Ann Warren, Michael McKean and Howard Hesseman as the victims of blackmail who have a motive for murder. The three endings proved equally unexciting, and critics joked it was based on a "bored game". But the film has its moments and is certainly better than the Cluedo series on ITV. Written and directed by Jonathan Lynn of *Yes Prime Minister*. (Ceefax)
9.25 News with Michael Buerk. (Ceefax) Weather
9.45 Match of the Day: The Road To Wembley. Desmond Lynam introduces highlights of the day's matches from the FA Cup sixth round in which Everton, conquerers of Liverpool in the last round, face a difficult trip to second division leaders West Ham. Commentary by John Motson, Barry Davies and Tony Gubba

Twilight world: Burt Reynolds, Catherine Deneuve (10.55pm)

10.55 Film: Hustle (1975). Latter-day *film noir* in which Burt Reynolds and Catherine Deneuve play a poor cop and a call girl who decide to escape the seedy *demi-monde* of violence and corruption they both inhabit. Their plans are hampered when Reynolds is called upon to investigate the murder of another call-girl on behalf of her dangerously distraught father. Reynolds and Deneuve give strong performances, and sturdy supppri comes from the veterans Eddie Albert, Ernest Borgnine and Ben Johnson. But there is little cheer in Steve Shagan's bitter script. Directed by Robert Aldrich. (Ceefax)
12.50am Weather

BBC 2

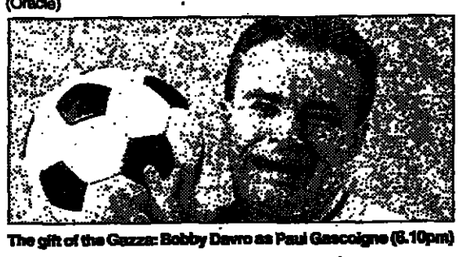
6.50 Open University: Maths — Inverse Functions 7.15 Asian Families, Western Culture 7.40 Geology: Mapping in the Yorkshire Dales 8.05 Density and Viscosity in Mineral Processing 8.30 Managing in Organisations 8.55 The Telephone — Birth of a Technology 9.20 Adult Education: Learning in Groupe 9.45 Living Choices — Good Moves 10.10 Images — Beyond the Eye 10.35 The Effective Manager 11.00 Managing Health Services 11.25 Living Choices — New Dimensions 11.50 Survival in a Competitive Environment 12.15 *Henry IV* parts one and two 1.05 Technology: Eureka! 1.30 *Modern Art: Monet 1.55 Geometric Topology — Orientability* 2.20 Ecology: A Tropical Rainforest
2.45 Mahabharat. Continuing the epic Indian drama series. In Hindi with English subtitles
3.25 Animation Now. *Harlem Wednesday*. Harlem life as seen through the paintings of Gregorio Prestopino and the music of Benny Carter (r)
3.35 Film: Carousel (1956). Screen version of a famous stage musical with Gordon MacRae as a good-for-nothing carousel barker who is killed during a robbery but permitted to return to Earth for a day to help his family. The choreography is lively and the Rodgers and Hammerstein score includes such show-stoppers as "June Is Busting Out All Over" and "You'll Never Walk Alone". With Shirley Jones. Directed by Henry King
5.40 Late Again. Highlights of the week's editions of the arts and media magazine *The Late Show*
6.25 News with Jane Corbin. Weather
6.40 Wainwright. *On the Pennine Way*. Wainwright, the popular British fell-walker, leads Eric Robson over the section from Wynch(Bridge in Teesdale to the shoulder of the Pennines (r)
7.10 World Indoor Athletics Championships. Helen Rollason and Brendan Foster present live coverage from Seville. Featuring the start of Linford Christie's quest for the 200m title, the finals of the 1500m with Peter Elliot in contention, and the finals of the men's and women's 60m hurdles. Commentary by David Coleman and Paul Dickenson
8.05 Rhythms of the World. Featured this week is Songhai, a multi-national band comprising the Spanish flamenco guitarist Ketama, West African kora player Toumani Diabate, and the British double-bass player Danny Thompson. The film traces the development of this unusual collaboration and includes footage from a concert performance.


Performing a triple role: Virginia Kerr as the wife (9.00pm)

9.00 The Vanishing Bridegroom.
● CHOICE: Judith Weir's strikingly original post-modernist opera, first staged last year to celebrate Glasgow's stint as the European city of culture, gets its television première. The work draws on Weir's Scottish roots and weaves together three 19th century Gaelic folk tales. Although the stories are free-standing, the same five soloists appear in each so that a continuous narrative emerges. A woman forbidden to marry her sweetheart is forced into an arranged marriage with a rich man who disappears as the couple go to register the birth of their daughter. The story subsequently turns on the fate of the daughter, now grown-up and in danger of being seduced by the devil. Peter Snipp plays the bridegroom and Virginia Kerr the three roles of bride, wife and mother in the Scottish Opera production directed by Ian Spink.
10.30 Twin Peaks. David Lynch's award-winning cult series (r)
11.20 The Film Club: A Short Film About Killing (1987)
● CHOICE: The Polish cinema season ends with Krzysztof Kieslowski introducing his extraordinary film about the brutal and motiveless murder of a taxi driver in Warsaw. The television version was shown on BBC2 last year, as part of the sequence of Kieslowski films inspired by the ten commandments. But it has even more force in this feature-length version, which won two prizes, as well as creating much discussion, at the 1988 Cannes film festival. Kieslowski's uncompromising treatment refuses to spare us the horror of the killing, but nor does it shirk the gruesome detail of the execution of the young murderer. A film which starts by engaging sympathy for an innocent victim becomes an attack on capital punishment. Kieslowski underlines the sombreness of the theme with a remarkable visual style of washed-out greens and yellows, bizarre camera angles and disconcerting images. Ends at 12.50am

ITV

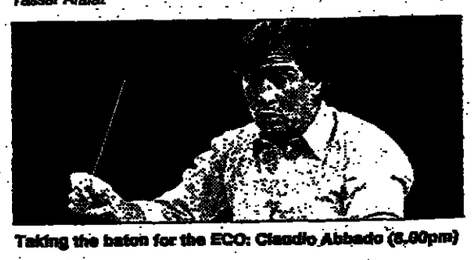
6.00 TV-am
9.25 Motormouth. The guests include ITN weatherman Alex Hill and *Dr Who's* assistant Sophie Aldred
11.30 The ITV Chart Show. The vintage video slot features the B-52s
12.30 Saint and Greavsie. Ian St John and Jimmy Greaves preview the weekend's FA Cup quarter-finals
1.00 ITN News with Nicholas Owen. Weather 1.05 LWT News and weather
1.10 Grand Sportsmasters. Dickie Davies hosts the quiz to find the ultimate brain of sport
1.40 World Sport Special. A look at the week's sporting action from around the world with profiles of leading personalities and classic moments from sporting history. Followed by The Day which examines the world of an agoraphobic (r)
2.10 Spectacular World of Guinness Records. With David Frost
2.40 Schoolboy Soccer. Elton Welsby introduces live coverage of the under-15s England v Scotland match, live from Wembley Stadium. Expect some first-class action and watch out for the young men who might become tomorrow's stars. Commentary by Alan Parry and Ian St John
4.45 Results Service presented by Elton Welsby
5.00 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather 5.05 LWT News and weather
5.15 Beverly Hills, 90210. Teenage angst and many a moral tale are the central elements in the saga of a midwestern family experiencing culture shock on moving to glitzy Beverly Hills. (Oracle)


The gift of the Gazza: Bobby Davro as Paul Gascoigne (6.10pm)

6.10 Davro. New comedy series with Bobby Davro whose wicked impressions include Gazza, Sean Connery, Clint Eastwood and The New Wimps On The Block
6.40 You Bet! Matthew Kelly and Ellis Ward encourage members of the public to demonstrate unusual talents. This week's contestants include a Staffordshire perascender towed by roller hockey players and two strongmen challenged to hold up a plank while 100 pipers cross it puffing their hearts out
7.40 Film: New Columbo: Grand Deception (1989). Peter Falk stars as the sharp detective in the shapeless mac. In this feature-length episode Columbo investigates the death of a sergeant major at a training camp where civilians pay to be transformed into mercenaries in two weeks. Although the man appears to have been killed by a freak explosion, Columbo unearths evidence suggesting a more sinister demise.
9.25 ITN News with Trevor McDonald. Sport and weather 9.40 LWT Weather
9.45 Aspel and Company. Michael Aspel hosts the good-natured banter show with veteran Scottish rockstar Rod Stewart, actress Patricia Hodge and entertainer Dudley Moore
10.30 Film: Deadly Deception (1987). When a young woman commits suicide, her husband is not convinced by the coroner's ruling that she killed their son at the same time. Helped by a sympathetic newspaper reporter, he begins the hunt for his missing son, presumed dead by the authorities. Matt Salinger is the forlorn widower in this middling made-for-television thriller, with Lisa Eilbacher as his partner and love interest. Directed by John Llewellyn Moxey
12.15am The Making of Dances With Wolves. A look behind the scenes of Kevin Costner's epic revisionist Western that looks set to scoop the Academy Awards this month
12.40 Film: Some Will, Some Won't (1969). In order to receive £150,000 four people must perform bizarre and humiliating acts. No, this isn't another episode of *You Bet!*, but an old British comedy featuring Ronnie Corbett as a deceased practical joker whose will lays down unusual conditions. Comedy stalwarts Thora Hird, Michael Hordern, Leslie Phillips and Barbara Murray have to decide whether the bequeathed cash is worth the bother of earning it. Humour is thin on the ground in this moribund remake of *Laughter in Paradise*. Directed by Duncan Wood
2.30 Adventure. Video college of adventurous types
3.00 American College Football. Maryland v North Carolina State
4.00 The Hitman and Her with Pete Waterman and Michaela Strachan
5.00 The Twilight Zone: Street of Shadows. The cult sci-fi series with the swirling opening titles continues for another wonderfully incoherent journey into space, time and the imagination
5.30 ITN Morning News with Anne Leuchars. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Comic Book Cartoons for children. 7.00 Trans World Sport
8.00 The Channel Four Daily
9.15 Channel 4 Racing — The Morning Line
9.25 Sing & Swing. Vintage jazz from the Thirties and Forties (r)
9.30 Same Difference. Series on disabled matters. A look at the long battle a legal fight for compensation can entail following a long-term illness or injury (r)
10.00 Free For All. Mrs Margaret Bell argues the case of the Armagh four, soldiers controversially convicted of a sectarian murder (r)
10.30 Film: Never Take No For An Answer (1952, b/w). Visually pleasing, religiously-angled children's film about a small boy who makes a pilgrimage to Rome to ask the Pope's permission to take his sick donkey into church. Stars Vittorio Manuta and Denis O'Dea. Directed by Maurice Cloche and Ralph Smart
12.00 Night in the Gardens of Spain. Images of Spain accompanied by the orchestral suite of Manuel de Falla (r)
12.30 The Munsters: The Sleeping Cutie (b/w) Classic American comedy starring Yvonne de Carlo and Fred Gwynne as the lovable monsters Lily and Herman Munster (r)
1.00 Film: The More the Merrier (1943, b/w). Enjoyable comedy set in Washington during the second world war. While it features the famous stoop-courting scene between Jean Arthur and Joel McCrea, the film's main strength is Charles Coburn, who gives a vibrant, Oscar-winning performance as the matchmaker Mr Dingle. Directed by George Stevens
3.00 Channel 4 Racing from Sandown Park. Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the 3.05, 3.35, 4.10 and 4.40 races
5.05 Brookside. Omnibus edition of the soap set in a Merseyside cul-de-sac (r). (Teletext)
6.30 Right to Reply. Topics for discussion are the BBC's *QED* programme on the link between children's intelligence and vitamin pills and Yorkshire Television's *Emmerdale*
7.00 The World This Week. Includes a look at the international status of Germany, the continuing unrest in Iraq and an interview with Yasser Arafat


Taking the baton for the ECO: Claudio Abbado (8.00pm)

8.00 Living Music: The Berlin Documentary.
● CHOICE: Three weekends of music from the Chamber Orchestra of Europe are introduced by a useful scene-setter which tells us how the orchestra came about and shows it rehearsing and recording under the baton of its artistic adviser, Claudio Abbado. Essentially it is a story of European integration of which even Nicholas Ridley might approve. The ECO grew out of the European *Community Youth Orchestra and held its launch concert in London* ten years ago. The present ensemble of 50 players is drawn from a dozen countries, and unless they are lying through their back teeth they all get on splendidly. The ECO is run from London but has a special relationship with the city of Berlin, where this documentary was shot in December 1989 just as the wall was coming down. The next programme is tomorrow at 2.00pm and features an ECO concert of works by Rossini, Prokofiev and Ravel
9.00 LA Law. Glossy drama series about a Los Angeles-based law firm (r)
0.00 4 Play: World
● CHOICE: In this first television play by a stage dramatist, Kevin Hood, a well-heeled estate agent is made redundant because people are no longer buying luxury flats in the London docklands. He manages to salvage the company Volvo but is unable to summon up courage to break the news to his volatile wife and two children. While he pretends to go to the office each day he is robbing banks and building societies. The piece has all the makings of a black comedy and hints of this emerge from time to time. But the writer seems reluctant to push the humour very far. This is a pity because it tends to leave the play stranded in a no-man's land which is not quite comedy and not quite serious drama. Jim Broadbent of the National Theatre of Brent plays the victim with a fetching vulnerability and there is lively support from Kenny Ireland as the policeman who starts to smell a rat
11.30 The Secret Cabaret. Illusions show that tries for the off-beat. Simon Drake risks death by drowning, Ricky Jay rips off someone in the audience and James Randi battles with ancient spirits (r)
11.40 After Dark. What is so funny about comedy? Among those discussing the subject are Scottish misanthropist Gerry Sadowitz and Northern Irish funnyman Frank Carson

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.
6.00am Elephant Boy 6.30 The Flying Kiwi 7.00 Fun Factory 11.00 The Bionic Woman 12.00 Beyond 2000 1.00pm Combat 2.00 WWF Wrestling Challenge 3.00 Cool Cube 5.00 The Magician 6.00 Parker Lewis Can't Lose 6.30 The Addams Family 7.00 Free Spirit 7.30 In Living Color 8.00 China Beach 9.00 Designing Women 9.30 Murphy Brown 10.00 The Happening 11.30 Monsters 12.00 A Twist in the Tale 12.30am Skytext

SKY NEWS

● Via the Astra satellite.
News on the hour.
5.00am Sunrise 5.30 Health Circuit 9.30 Newsline 10.30 Health Circuit 11.30 The Reporters 1.30pm Getaway 2.30 Fashion TV 3.30 Those Were the Days 4.30 Health Circuit 5.00 Live at Five 5.30 The Reporters 7.30 Fashion TV 8.30 Getaway 10.30 The Reporters 11.30 Fashion TV 12.30am The Reporters 1.30 Getaway 2.30 Health Circuit 3.30 Our World 4.30 Those Were the Days

SKY NEWS

● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
News on the hour.
5.00am Sunrise 5.30 Health Circuit 9.30 Newsline 10.30 Health Circuit 11.30 The Reporters 1.30pm Opera. Handel's Orlando Furioso 4.30 Profile. Karl Amadeus Hartman 6.30 The Reporters 7.30 Dance: Shostakovich's The Golden Age 10.30 Jazz: Miles A. Paris 11.30 Fashion TV 12.30am The Reporters 1.30 Getaway 2.30 Health Circuit 3.30 Our World 4.30 Those Were the Days

SKY MOVIES

● Via the Astra satellite.
6.00am Showcase
8.00 Hero (1986): The 1986 Mexico World Cup Finals
10.00 Asterix and the Big Fight (1989): Animated adventure with Asterix the Gaul
12.00 Bright Eyes (1934, bw): Shirley Temple sings *On The Good Ship Lollipop* while her parents fight for custody of the curly-haired moppet
2.00pm Star Wars (1977): Intergalactic adventure as Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill) sets out to rescue Princess Leia (Carrie Fisher) from the evil Darth Vader
4.00 California Girls (1979): Robbie Benson determines to become part of the "in" crowd on the west coast
6.00 Stand and Deliver (1988): The true-life story of Jaime Escalante (Edward James Olmos), a Los Angeles teacher, who changed his pupils' lives
7.40 Entertainment Tonight
8.00 Feds (1988): Good-natured comedy set in the male-dominated FBI Academy
10.00 The Fly 2 (1989): Eric Stoltz stars as Martin Brundle, the son of the late Brundlefly, who mutates into a fly-creature and seeks revenge on his adoptive scientific tycoon father (Lee Richardson)
11.45 Blue Angel Cafe (1988): One night of passion with Blue Angel threatens to ruin a young man's (Richard Brown) model life
1.20am Three Fugitives (1989): A reformed bank robber (Nick Nolte) is taken hostage by a bungling crook (Martin Short)
2.55 She's Back (1988): Murdered by a gang of thugs, a nagging wife (Carrie Fisher) returns to haunt her husband (Robert Joy)
4.25 Command In Hell (1986): A female police captain is sent to a corrupt inner-city precinct. Ends at 6.25

EUROSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite.
6.00am As Sky One 9.00 Mobil 1 Motor Sports News 9.30 Formula 1 Grand Prix 10.00 Saturday Alive: Ford Ski Report; Lahti Ski Games; Virginia Slims of Palm Springs; Handbell — Six-Team Tournament; 1990 *Formula 3 Powerboat Season*; BOC Round-the-World Yacht Race; Indoor Athletics; Motorsport 8.00 Ringside 10.00 Formula 1 Grand Prix of the USA 10.30 Handball — Six-Team Tournament 11.30 Lahti Ski Games 12.30am Golf — Lyons Skins 1.30 British Touring Cars 1990 Season

SCREENSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite.
7.45am US Pro Ski Tour Giant Slalom 8.30 International Athletics Indoor 10.00 Motorsport IMSA Camel GT 12.00 Stop-Mud and Monsters 1.00pm Argentina Football 2.00 Weekend Live European PGA Volvo Tour 3.30 German Rally 4.00 Powersports International 5.00 US Pro Ski Tour Giant Slalom 5.45 Motorsport Rallycross 6.35 Weekend Live Ice Hockey NHL 1991 9.30 World Rally Champs Sweden 11.30 Pro Boxing 12.30am International Athletics Indoor 2.00 Tenpin Bowling 3.30 US Pro Boxing 5.00 Motorsport IMSA Camel GT

MTV

● Via the Astra satellite.
Twenty-four hours of rock and pop

LIFESTYLE

● Via the Astra satellite.
12.00 Johnny Ringo 12.30pm The Bill Dana Show 1.00 The Joan Rivers Show 1.50 He Shooted He Scored 2.45 Spain Spain Holiday 3.00 World Class Championship Wrestling 4.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Programme 8.00 Close 10.00 Satellite Jukebox

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
2.40pm The Cut-off-Towners (1979): Jack Lemmon and Sandy Dennis suffer every imaginable disaster on a trip to New York
2.20 Triple Cross (1966): Three private eyes become entangled in each other's cases
4.00 Silence of the Heart (1984): A family has to come to terms with the suicide of one their number. Starring Mariette Hartley
6.00 To Sir, With Love (1967): Sidney Poitier's novice teacher has to earn the respect of his pupils
7.45 The Film Charts
8.00 Little Nikita (1988): An American teenager (River Phoenix) discovers that his parents are sleeper Soviet agents
10.00 Bright Lights, Big City (1988): Michael J. Fox is distraught by his mother's death and his wife's desertion
11.50 Someone to Watch Over Me (1987): Tom Berenger plays a happily married cop who falls in love with the rich and beautiful murder witness he is assigned to protect
1.35am The Milagro Beanfield War (1988): Impoverished farmers in New Mexico defy land developers. Ends at 3.30

THE SPORTS CHANNEL

● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
10.30am Matchroom League Snooker 1.00pm Racing Today 1.30 Live One Day Cricket: West Indies v Australia 6.00 Ringside 10.00 Live One Day Cricket 10.30 Scottish Football Magazine 11.30 Racing Today 12.00 One Day Cricket 1.00am Ringside

THE POWER STATION

● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
7.00am Twenty-one hours of rock and pop

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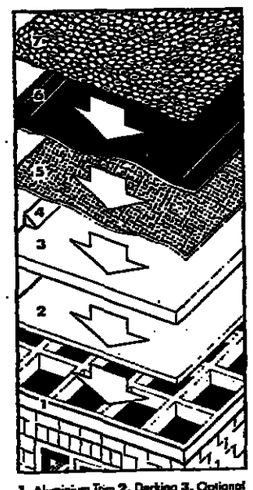

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ITV VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 10.30pm Up the Junction 11.15 Film: The Dunwich Horror 1.00 Hooperman 1.30 Alfred Hitchcock Presents 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00 Indy Car World 5.00-5.30 Peppino

BORDER
As London except: 1.40pm-2.40 The Silk Road 12.15am Film: Beyond the Bermuda Triangle 1.45 Tina Turner 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00 CinemAttractions 4.30 Comics — The Ninth Art 5.00 America's Top Ten

CENTRAL
As London except: 12.15am CinemAttractions 12.45 Film: The Case of The Howling Dog' 2.15 Hudson Confidential 2.45 America's Top Ten 3.15 American College Football 4.15-5.30 Central Jobfinder '91

CHANNEL
As London except: 12.00 International Athletics 12.30am Making of Dances of the Wolves 1.00 America's Top Ten 1.30 CinemAttractions 2.00 American College Football 3.00 Adventure Bound 4.00 California Highways 4.30 Supercar 5.00-5.30 Short Story Theatre

GRAMPIAN
As London except: 1.45pm Absirl 2.10-2.40 Crann Tara, 10.30 Hooperman 11.00 The Making of Dances with Wolves 11.35 Matlock. 12.15am Film: Beyond the Bermuda Triangle 1.40 Tina Turner 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00 CinemAttractions 4.30 Comics — The Ninth Art 5.00-5.30 America's Top Ten

GRANADA
As London except: 1.40pm McCloud 2.34-2.40 Cartoon 12.15am Film: Beyond the Bermuda Triangle 1.40 Tina Turner 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00 CinemAttractions 4.30 Comic — the Ninth Art 5.00-5.30 America's Top Ten

HTV WEST
As London except: 1.40pm-2.40 The Young Riders 12.15 Hardball 1.10 Film: Outland 3.10 New Music 4.05 Raw Power 5.05-5.30 Cover Story: Jose Feliciano.

SCOTTISH
As London except: 1.40pm Here Come the Double Deckers 2.05-2.40 This is America, Charlie Brown 10.30 Desperado 12.15am Late Night Romantics 1.15 The Making of Dances with Wolves 1.40 Film: Hunted 3.15 Film: St Martin's Lane 4.55-5.30 Jobfinder

TSW
As London except: 1.40m-2.10 The South West Weak 12.15 Film: Beyond the Bermuda Triangle 1.40 Tina Turner 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00 CinemAttractions 4.30 Comics — The Ninth Art 5.00-5.30 Amadeo's Top Ten

TVS
As London except: 12.15am The Making of Dances with Wolves 12.40 America's Top 10 1.10 Cinemattractions 1.40 American College Football 2.40 Adventure Bound 3.35 California Highways 4.05 Supercar 4.35-5.30 Short Story Theatre

TYNE TEES
As London except: 2.10pm-2.40 Katts and Dog 12.15 Film: Beyond the Bermuda Triangle 1.40 Tina Turner 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00 CinemAttractions 4.30 Comics — The Ninth Art 5.00-5.30 Amadeo's Top Ten

ULSTER
As London except: 1.40pm-2.40 The A-Team 12.15 Film: Beyond the Bermuda Triangle 1.40 Pop Profile 2.40 The Hit Man and Her 4.00 CinemAttractions 4.30 Comics — The Ninth Art 5.00 America's Top Ten

YORKSHIRE
As London except: 1.40pm The A-Team 2.30-2.40 Cartoon 10.30 Film: Three Days of the Condor 12.30 The Making of Dances with Wolves 1.05 The Equalizer 2.00 The Hit Man and Her 4.00 Derrick 5.05-5.30 Vintage Italian

S4C
Starts: 8.00am The Art of Landscape 7.00 Transworld Sport 8.00 C4 Daily 8.15 Morning Line 9.25 Sing and Swing 9.30 Same Difference 10.00 The Garden Club 10.30 Free For All 11.00 Travelog 11.30 Remote Control 12.00 Jonathan Ross 12.30 Sumo 1.00 Film: The More the Merrier' 3.00 Racing from Sandown 5.05 Brookside 6.00 Newyddion 6.40 Ibzal Ibzal 6.15 Y Maes Chwarae 9.15 Film on 4 Extra: Heat and Dust 11.40 After Dark 1.40 Diwedd

RTE 1
Starts: 9.00am Scratch Saturday 12.30 The 55th Fianna Fail Ard Fheis 1.30 News followed by Chips 2.25 Young Again 3.15 Beyond 2000 4.00 Film: The Spoilers 5.30 Duck Turpin 6.00 The Angelus 6.01 News 6.20 Mailbag 6.35 Talkabout 7.05 Star Trek: the Next Generation 7.55 The 56th Fianna Fail Ard Fheis 9.00 News 9.25 Dallas 10.20 Kenny Live 11.40 Rules of Engagement 12.40am News 12.45 Close

NETWORK 2
Starts: 11.15am The 46th Fianna Fail Ard Fheis 12.30 News 12.34 Sports Stadium 5.10 Countdown, Rediscovery of the World 6.00 Death Valley Days 6.30 Seachtain 6.55 Nuacht 7.00 The Mind 8.00 News 8.10 North and South 9.50 Saints and Scholars followed by The Lofty Man 10.20 Fraud 10.35 Film: Fraud 12.40am Close

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW. 5.00am Tim Smith 7.00 The Bruno and Liz Breakfast Show 10.00 Dave Lee Travis 1.00pm Adrian Juste 2.00 Independents Now: Are indy labels important to music in the Nineties? 3.00 The Saturday Sequence 7.00 Saturday Rock Show 10.00 In Concert: Thunder, recorded at the Hammersmith Odeon, London, last December 11.00-2.00am John Peel

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 4.00am Dave Gussey 6.00 Graham Knight 7.45 Take 2 with Sheila Tracy 8.05 Ronnie Hilton: Sounds of the Fifties 9.00 Brian Matthew: Sounds of the Sixties 10.00 Anne Robinson 12.00 Gerald Harper 1.30pm The News Huddlines (r) 2.00 Robin Ray on Record 3.00 Gerry Anderson 4.45 Brian Sharp at the consoles of the Christie Theatre Organ, the Technics *Pro 80 Electronic* and the *Kawai* electric piano 5.00 Cinema 2 with Charles Nove 5.30 Screenplay: Ian Johnstone hosts the celebrity panel show 6.00 Encore with Dave Gelly (r) 7.00 Jazz Score 7.30 Saturday Gala Night. A Classical Kaleidoscope. With the BBC Concert Orchestra under Adrian Leaper (r) 9.30 Easy Does It 10.00 Radio 2 Arts Programme 12.05am Cinema 2 (r) 12.30 Len Jackson with Night Ride 3.00-4.00 A Little Night Music

RADIO 3

6.00am World Service: Newsdesk 6.30 Morning Edition 9.02 On Your Marks, incl 10.00, 11.00 Sport 12.00 News; Sports on 4 Plus 1 (broadcast on Radio 4 at 9.05am) 12.30pm Sportscall. Phone-in quiz with Danny Baker. Tel: 0345 909 693 1.30 Sport on 5 with John Inverdale. Football: Commentary from today's FA Cup ties, plus reports from the Barclays League; Rugby Union: Courage League, incl Bath v Wasps; Athletics: World Indoor Championships from Seville; Racing from Chepstow (2.00) Ansdiga Novices Chase (2.30) Polycell Hurdle. Plus news of golf and the opening Formula One Grand Prix of the season from Phoenix, Arizona 5.00 Sports Report 6.00-11.00 As Radio 4, incl 10.00-10.15 Sports Bulletin 11.00 Sport 11.10 World Service: People and Politics 11.40 The International Money Programme 11.55 Words of Faith 12.00-12.10am Sport

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 5.00am German Features 5.35 News in German; Headlines in English and French 5.47 Press Review 5.52 Financial News 5.55 Weather and Travel News 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 Londres Matin 6.59 Weather 7.00 World News 7.09 24 Hours 7.30 From the Weeklies 7.45 On the Record 8.00 News 8.09 Words of Faith 8.15 A Jolly Good Show 9.00 News 9.15 A Taste of Soul 9.30 Financial News 9.39 Sports Roundup 9.45 Network UK 10.01 Here's Humphy 10.15 Letter from America 10.30 People and Politics 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Midi Magazine 11.59 Travel News 12.00 News 12.09pm News About Britain 12.15 Multitrack 3 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 News 1.09 24 Hours 2.01 Letter from America 2.15 Club 648 2.30 Sportsworld 3.00 News 3.15 Sportsworld (cont) 4.00 News 4.09 News About Britain 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News and Features in German 4.59 Travel News 5.01 Sportsworld: Final Results 5.30 Londres Soir 6.15 BBC English 6.30 Heute Aktuell 7.00 German Features 7.54 News in German 8.00 News 8.09 Society Today 8.25 Words of Faith 8.30 Meridian 9.01 Sports Roundup 9.15 Short Story: Rumio 9.30 From Our Own Correspondent 9.50 Write On... 10.00 Newshour 11.00 News 11.05 Words of Faith 11.10 Book Choice 11.15 A Jolly Good Show 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am The Ken Bruce Show 1.01 Play of the Week Affair 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Call Me When You're in Something 3.00 News 3.09 News About Britain 3.15 Society Today 3.30 From Our Own Correspondent 3.50 Write On... 3.59 Weather 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Personal View 4.45 News and Press Review in German

RADIO 4

6.35-6.55am Open University (FM only): Nuclear Weapons — The Hydrogen Bomb Controversy
6.55 Weather; News Headlines
7.00 Morning Concert: Vivaldi (Violin Concerto in E minor, RV 279: English Concert under Pinnock, with Simon Standage); Monteverdi (Laetatus sum: Soloists; Stuttgart Baroque Ensemble under Frieder Bernius, with Monica Meier-Schmid and Inga Nielson, sopranos, John Elwes and William Kendall, tenors, Cornelius Hauptmann and Adolph Seidel, basses); Verdi (Overture, La forza del destino: Berlin PO under von Karajan)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert (cont): Schubert (Piano Sonata in B, D 575: Sviatoslav Richter); Mendelssohn (Capriccio in E minor: Melos String Quartet); Mendelssohn (Venetianisches Gondellied, Op 57 No 5: Anthony Rolfe Johnson, tenor, Graham Johnson, piano); Bach (Concerto in F, BWV 1053: Chamber Orchestra of Europe under Douglas Boyd, oboe)
8.30 News
8.35 BBC Scottish SO under Jerzy Maksymiuk performs Elgar (Elegy for Strings); Rachmaninov (Symphony No 1) (r)
9.30 Saturday Review, with Richard Osborne. Record Review — Building a Library: Edward Greenfield on Mozart's Symphony No 40; Michael Stewart reviews new discs by Berio, Ligeti, Takemitsu and Peter Maxwell Davies. 10.40 Record Release: Eybler (Clarinet Concerto: English Chamber Orchestra, with Dieter Klöcker); Takemitsu (Litany: Roger Woodward, piano), Lambert (Ballet Suite, Horoscope: English Northern Philharmonia under Lloyd-Jones); Ligeti (Three Fantasies after Hölderlin: Groupe Vocal de France under Guy Reibel), Kraft (Cello Concerto in C, Op 4: Tafelmusik Orchestra under Jean Lamon, with Anner Bytsma); Berio (Voci: London Sinfonietta under the composer, with Aldo Bennici, viola)
12.55pm Words: Complexity. A reflection on language by the philosopher Anthony Grayling (r)
1.00 News
1.05 Peter Rösel: The pianist plays Mozart (Sonata in B flat, K 333); Busoni (Giga, bolero e variazione); Brahms (Variations and Fugue on a Theme of Handel, Op 24) (r)
2.10 BBC Welsh SO under Tadeusz Otaki, with Gwyneth Jones, soprano, performs Beethoven (Symphony No 1 in C, Op 21; Concert aria; Ah! perfido, Op 65); Wagner (Dawn and Siegfried's Rhine Journey; Siegfried's Funeral March; Brunnhilde's Immolation, Götterdämmerung)
3.45 Tuning Up: Chris de Souza explores the sound of the group called George W. Welch. John White, arr Ian Gardiner (Sonata No 109); Erik Satie, arr Ian Gardiner (Chapitres tournés en tous sens); Andrew Hugill (Catalogue de grenouilles); Ian Gardiner (British Museum)
5.00 Jazz Record Requests
5.45 Third Opinion, with Christopher Cook. Includes reviews of Stephen Berkoff's production of Kafka's *The Trial*; the film *Godfather III*; and the novel *Downriver*, by Ian Sinclair
6.30 Der Rosenkavalier: The Chorus and Orchestra of the New York Metropolitan Opera under Jiri Kout perform Act 1 of Richard Strauss's three-act opera to a text by Hofmannsthal. With Mechthild Gessendorf, soprano, as Marschall

BBC 1

.45 Open University: Wages of Action — Religion in a Hindu village 7.35 Film as Historical Evidence: Poverty in the 1930s 8.00 News 8.15 Maths Methods: Complex Exponentials

.40 Playdays. Children's programme (r)

.00 News 9.15 Come Holy Spirit. On Mothering Sunday Graham Young explores what it means to ask the Spirit to "give life", and the differences between being alive and living

.00 France Actuelle. Series of films on modern France (r). Wales: (to 12.30) See You Sunday 10.25 México Vivo. Part three of an introduction to Mexican Spanish (r) 10.50 Step up to Wordpower. Chris Serle presents the literacy programme for adults (r) 11 15 A Way with Numbers. Practical maths help for adults 11.40 Bazaar. Household hints and tips presented by Nerys Hughes (r)

.05 Sign Extra. A sign language edition of the consumer programme *Watchdog*

.30 Country File. John Craven reports on the sale of forest land to private owners and the resulting restrictions on public access to many of Britain's woods and forests. Wales: Farming in Wales 12.55 Weather

.00 News Followed by On The Record. What is the hidden agenda of Michael Heseltine's poll tax review? Polly Toynbee chairs a studio discussion between Baroness Hollis and MPs Rhodes Boyson and Keith Hampson

.00 EastEnders. Omnibus edition (r). (Ceefax)

.00 Match of the Day: Road to Wembley. Desmond Lynam introduces live coverage of the FA Cup sixth round tie between Tottenham Hotspur and second division Notts County. The commentary is provided by John Motson and Trevor Brooking at White Hart Lane, with analysis in the studio from Jimmy Hill and Bob Wilson

.05 The Clothes Show. The team travel to Milan where Jeff Banks and Caryn Franklin report on the Italian and British autumn/winter 91/92 collections. Also a report on London Fashion Week and the campaign to sell British fashion

.30 Antiques Roadshow visits Stafford. The pickings are rich and the team run into the finest scientific instrument ever seen on the show. (Ceefax)

.15 OK 2 Talk Feelings. Children's reaction to parental divorce. (Ceefax)

.25 News with Martyn Lewis. Weather.

.40 Songs of Praise from the General Assembly of the World Council of Churches in Canberra. (Ceefax) (postponed from February 24)

7.15 Brush Strokes. Tired comedy about the exploits of a likely lad and frustrated Romeo. Starring Karl Howman. (Ceefax)

7.45 Lovejoy: Lily's Pearls. Deliciously tongue-in-cheek series starring Ian McShane as the dodgy antiques dealer. Lovejoy's talents for sniffing out the genuine article seem to work just as well when it comes to ferreting out rodents, as he discovers in a meeting with a property developer wanting to go into business with Lady Jane's husband. (Ceefax)

8.35 Butterflies. Wendy Craig as Ria, the housewife in search of a more exciting life, in the re-run of Carla Lane's perceptive sitcom. Leonard wants to have a romantic lunch with Ria on his birthday, but Ria is dreaming of other things (r)

9.10 News with Martyn Lewis. (Ceefax) Weather

9.25 That's Life! Consumer affairs presented by Esther Rantzen

0.00 Mastermind introduced by Magnus Magnusson from the Meeting House Chapel at the University of Sussex. This week's specialist subjects are Thomas Telford; the vampire in popular English fiction, 1819-1989; Gloucester Cathedral; and George Bernard Shaw

Rebel soldier: Victor Williams with Joan Bakewell (10.30pm)

10.30 Heart of the Matter: A Soldier's Conscience. Joan Bakewell talks to Victor Williams, the soldier who deserted his regiment on the night before they were due to fly to the Gulf, about the decision that ruined his career

11.05 The Days and Nights of Molly Dodd. Amusing American comedy drama series starring Blair Brown

11.30 Mosaic: Crosstalk. A look at how a breakdown in communication within a multicultural society may occur, despite the existence of a common language

12.20am Mahabharat (r)

1.00 Weather

BBC 2

6.35 Open University.

12.00 Regional Political Reviews. Wales: Sign Extra

12.30 Scrutiny. Iain MacWhirter presents news of parliamentary committees. (Ceefax)

1.00 Open University: Mastering Management — For Trainee Managers

1.25 One In Four. Magazine programme for the disabled (r)

1.55 Animation Now. *The Boy and the Snowgoose*

2.05 Film 91 Special. Barry Norman talks to Francis Ford Coppola about his up-and-down career and the *Godfather* trilogy (r) 2.45 The Barry Awards for Comic Relief. Barry Norman previews Friday's Comic Relief appeal (r)

3.00 Film: Monte Carlo or Bust (1969) Peter Cook and Dudley Moore join a star-studded cast in Ken Annakin's lacklustre sequel to his 1965 hit, *Those Magnificent Men In Their Flying Machines*. Automotive machines are celebrated in this outing which pits villain Terry-Thomas against Tony Curtis in a Twenties car race over the 1,500 mile Monte Carlo Rally

5.00 Rugby Special. Chris Rea introduces highlights of Bath v Wasps in the Courage league. Wales: Pontypridd v Swansea and Llanelli v Pontypool

6.00 Athletics. The IAAF world indoor championships from Seville

6.35 The Money Programme. Michael Robinson reports on the economic pressures that are pulling the Soviet Union apart

7.15 The Natural World: Marathon Birds.
● CHOICE: Clever French scientists have discovered that by fitting a small radio transmitter to an albatross they can track by satellite the long-distance journeys of this majestic sea bird as it covers vast areas of the Indian Ocean. One bird logged 8,700 miles, the distance from London to Australia, in 26 days. There is much else of fascination in Lancelot Tickell's film, which takes in locations on the Falklands, the Galapagos, the Leeward islands and Hawaii. The albatross is a creature of many climes. There are obligatory sequences of courtship and breeding but a welcome respite from those scenes of gory killing that disfigure so many wildlife documentaries. Tickell widens his treatment to recall Colendge's "Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner", while offering spectacular proof that the real albatross is no dead weight round anyone's neck. (Ceefax)

8.05 Naked Hollywood: Good Cop, Bad Cop. The safari into the treacherous jungle of Hollywood continues with a look at producers. Don Simpson and Jerry Bruckheimer are the biggest, most flamboyant producers in Tinseltown, with credits including *Top Gun* and *Beverly Hills Cop*. Meanwhile Lynda Obst and Debra Hill have taken on the challenge of Terry Gilliam, director of *The Adventures of Baron Munchausen*, which went millions of dollars over budget and nearly sank a studio

8.55 How Are The Kids? A fable without words about a boy who is the only white child in his school. Directed by the comedian Jerry Lewis and set to music by Georges Delerue (r)

9.05 Baryshnikov Dances Balanchine. Baryshnikov and his company, American Ballet Theatre, dance two contrasting pieces. *Apollo* is set to music by Stravinsky, while *Who Cares?* features familiar tunes from Gershwin (r)

A case of child abuse: Joanna Griffiths, Patrick Bergin (10.00pm)

10.00 Screen Two: Morphine and Dolly Mixtures.
● CHOICE: An unrelenting drama from the writer-director Karl Francis charts a fact-based case of child abuse in Fifties Wales. The perpetrator is a father of five, a Korean war veteran, alcoholic, addicted to morphine and prone to blazing fits of violence. The victim is his 11-year-old daughter, who is left in charge of the younger children after the mother dies from a brain tumour. Social and medical services are notable for their absence and the family descends inexorably into hell. Such a sombre story hardly makes for easy viewing, particularly as there is no bending of the truth to contrive a neat resolution. But the piece produces two tremendous performances, from the Irish actor Patrick Bergin, as the horribly tormented father, and from young Joanna Griffiths in her first television part as the battered girl. She was chosen from 200 girls who auditioned for the part. They chose right. (Ceefax)

11.35 Grand Prix. Highlights of the US Grand Prix from Phoenix, Arizona

12.25am Snub. Cult music show (r)

12.55 Rapido presented by Antoine de Caunes (r). Ends at 1.30

ITV

8.00 TV-am. Includes, at 8.00, Frost on Sunday with Maya Even. Among the guests is Cecil Parkinson

9.25 The Disney Club. A special Mothering Sunday edition with guests New Kids On the Block

10.45 Link. Magazine series on disabled matters

11.00 Morning Worship from Westgate Baptist Church, Bradford

12.00 Encounter: It's Hard Being a Woman. The role of Muslim women in western society is discussed by Shahwar Sadeque, the BBC's first Asian governor

12.30 LWT News Weekend

1 00 News with Carol Barnes Weather

1 10 Walden. In the first programme of a new series Brian Walden exercises his abrasive interviewing technique on someone who knows how to dish it out himself, Norman Tebbit, MP, former chairman of the Conservative party Followed by The Day (r)

2.00 Film: The Legend of the Lone Ranger (1981) A dubbed Klinton Spilsbury dons the famous mask in a misconceived attempt to explain the origins of the Lone Ranger and his Indian companion, Tonto (played by someone called Michael Horse). A critic said it was the sort of film that emptied cinemas. It could also empty a few living rooms. Directed by William A. Fraker

3.30 Film: Houdini (1953) Lightweight and fanciful biopic of the great escapologist that stars Tony Curtis in the title role and Janet Leigh, the former Mrs Curtis, as Houdini's wife Bess Directed by George Marshall

5.25 The Bafta Craft Awards. Max Boyce and Elinor Jones host the first part of the film and television industry's annual pat-on-the-back ceremony from St David's Hall in Cardiff, in the presence of the Princess Royal

6.35 News with Carol Barnes Weather 6.40 LWT News and weather

6.45 Appeal. Patricia Routledge appeals on behalf of the housing charity Shac.

At the Burrell museum in Thetford: Sir Harry Secombe (6.45pm)

6.50 Highway. Sir Harry Secombe religiously sings his way through the Brecklands area in Norfolk

7.20 Trouble in Mind: Down Memory Lane. Tepid sitcom starring Richard O'Sullivan as psychiatrist Adam Charlesworth. In this episode everyone forgets something Adam's wife Julia (Susan Penhaligon) forgets a weekend break, Adam forgets his appointment with Malcolm, and Mr Franklin, a patient, forgets to arrive for his own appointment (Oracle)

7.50 Murder, She Wrote: O'Malley's Luck. American mystery series about writer Jessica Fletcher (Angela Lansbury), who always manages to be in the vicinity when a murder takes place. By now she cannot have many friends or relatives left, so she helps detective Jim O'Malley (Pat Hingle) who does not accept a suicide verdict on the wife of a wealthy property developer. (Oracle)

8.45 News with Julia Somerville. Weather 9.05 LWT Weather

9.10 Agatha Christie's Poirot: The Mystery of Hunter's Lodge. Detective series stronger on style than substance, but what style! And David Suchet's Poirot is a brilliant piece of acting, right down to that dainty little walk. Agatha Christie would surely have approved. Poirot and his Watson-figure Hastings (Hugh Fraser) are invited by Roger Havering (Jim Norton) for a grouse-shooting weekend, but it is not just the grouse that end up dead. (Oracle)

10.10 Find a Family. The launch of the third ITV campaign to find homes for children in care

10.25 Cool Head. Rubber-faced comedian Phil Cool contorts his face into some more impressions before a live audience

10.55 Film: Letting Go (1985) Entertaining, made-for-television comedy-romance starring Sharon Gless and John Ritter as two witty people who have recently lost their partners and discover each other at a self-help group. Directed by Jack Bender

12.40am The ITV Chart Show. (r)

1.40 New Music. Rock and pop magazine

2.45 Indy Car Racing. American motor sport

3.45 Pick of the Week. Regional television highlights

4.10 The Lawless Years: The Al Brown Story. A mobster tries to take over his bosses' territory

4.40 Adventure. Man continues his battles against nature and the elements

5.05 Wanted: Dead or Alive (b/w). Vintage western series starring Steve McQueen as a bounty hunter (r)

5.30 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Trans World Sport (r) 7.00 The Complete Skier. Featuring the joys of Nordic skiing 7.30 Dr Snuggles. Animation 8 00 The Bluffers 8.30 Bobobobs 9.00 Early Bird. Informative children's magazine

9.25 Mahfil The music series that explores the sounds of ghazal and qawwali music from India and Pakistan features the acclaimed Pakistan-based classical singer Abida Parveen

10.00 A Week in Politics — Second Reading Includes an interview with the trade and industry secretary Peter Lilley

10 45 Dennis Cartoon 11 00 Boomi For children (r)

11 30 Star Test Bernard Sumner of the band New Order reveals all to the noisy computer 12 00 The Waltons 1 00 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea (b/w) (r)

2.00 Living Music: The Berlin Concert. Linked to a series of documentaries being shown on Channel 4 on Saturdays this is the first of three concerts by the Chamber Orchestra of Europe Conducted by Claudio Abbado, it was recorded at the Kammermusiksaal of the Philharmonie in Berlin and features Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*, Ravel's *Mother Goose* ballet, and the Overture to *Cenerentola* by Rossini

3.15 Schu-Man. A short about an enterprising Belgian graduate who sets up a shoe-shine business outside the EC headquarters in Brussels (r)

3.35 Film: Craig's Wife (1936, b/w) Rosalind Russell stars in this efficient version of a Broadway hit about a middle-class woman whose obsession with her home leads to her being abandoned by her husband (John Boles), her friends and her household Directed by Dorothy Arzner, one of the very few women to make the director's chair in Hollywood in the Thirties

5.00 Scottish Eye. Making History Pay The documentary series with a Scottish perspective looks at the large amount of money being spent on maintaining Scottish heritage and asks if it is justified in the public's eyes

5.30 Kersplat! Series that examines the world of comics

5.45 Grim Tales. Rik Mayall tells the story of *The Little Peasant*

6.00 Press Gang Superior children's drama series about a school newspaper (r)

6.30 The Wonder Years. Emmy-award winning comedy that looks back to 1968 when the hero, Kevin Arnold (Fred Savage), was 13 years old

7.00 Channel Four News with Nicholas Owen and Zeinab Badawi. Weather

The magical city: a musical journey through Venice (8.00pm)

8.00 Maestro: The Gabrielis and the 16th Century.
● CHOICE A five-part "musical journey through Venice" is hosted by John Julius Norwich, first seen on location in green wellies and the musicologist H.C. Robbins Landon, who talks nearly as quickly as Patrick Moore. The musical content, at least in tonight's opener, tends to take second place to a wide-ranging introduction to the city which Norwich calls "the most magical and miraculous on earth". The programme is built around the uncle and nephew composers, the Gabrielis, and we are given samples of their music performed in St Mark's cathedral, where both were organists. But Norwich frequently leaves the Gabrielis on one side as he indulges his passion for the Venetian landscape and tells us about Titian and Tinotoretto, the plagues, the Turks and the doges. To say that Venice is superbly photographed is stating the obvious. It must be nearly impossible to photograph badly

9.00 The Media Show. Emma Freud looks at the state of the British pop industry and asks why the charts are full of nostalgia and golden oldies

9.45 Film: Zelig (1983, b/w and colour). Woody Allen's spoof documentary about an imaginary nobody who claims to have been involved with all the world's important historical events A clever idea, carried through by technical wizardry that places Allen in old footage of Hitler, Roosevelt and Eugene O'Neill. But there is not a lot more to it than that, certainly not much humour, and the appeal is chiefly to Allen fans. With Mia Farrow

11.15 Film: Layla Ma Raison (1969). Exotic and moving Tunisian film based on a 7th-century Arab love story. Qays (Safy Boutella) and Layla (Anca Nicola) have been in love since childhood, but when Qays breaks with tradition and publicly declares his love, Layla's father orders the couple never to see each other again. Directed by Taieb Louhichi. Ends at 1.00am

REGIONAL TELEVISION

ANGLIA

As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Farming Diary 2.00 Members Only 2.25 The World of Golf 2.55 Film: Harbor Rose Again 4.30-5.25 Highway to Heaven 12.30am The New Avengers 1.30 CinemAttractions 2.00 Film: Death Stalk 3.30 Transmission 4.30-5.30 The Silk Road

BORDER

As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Conference Report 2.00 Gardening Time 2.30 Kaitis and Dog 2.55 Film: After the Promise 4.55-5.25 Bullseye 10.45 Country In Concert 11.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H 12.40 Quiz Night 1.10 I Spy 2.05 Stand Up 2.35 Film: The Man From Down Under 4.30 The ITV Chart Show 5.20-5.30 Jobfinder

CENTRAL

As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Gardening Time 2.00 Charlie's Angels 2.55 Film: Shane 5.15-5.25 Cartoon Time 12.35am Prisoner: Cell Block H 1.25 Santa Barbara 2.20 Comics — The Ninth Art 2.50 Chart Show 3.50 Profile 4.05-5.30 Jobs

GRANADA

As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Granada This Week 2.00 Richmond Hill 2.55 Film: Carry on Nurse 4.30-5.25 Coronation Street 10.45 Barry Manilow 11.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H 12.40 Quiz Night 1.10 I Spy 2.05 Stand Up 2.35 Film: The Man From Down Under 4.30 The ITV Chart Show 5.20-5.30 Jobfinder

HTV WEST

As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 West Country Farming 2.00 HTV Newsweek 2.30 Here Come the Double Deckers 2.55 Film: Value for Money 4.30-5.25 Highway to Heaven 12.30 Prisoner: Cell Block H 1.30 Chart Show 2.30 Festivals of the Far East 3.25 Hit Man and Her 5.15-5.30 Jobs

HTV WALES

As HTV West except: 12.30pm-1.00 Jimmy's 2.00 West Country Farming 2.30 The Unknown Mountain 3.00 Rugby Round Up 4.00-4.30 Faster Than the Wind

TSW

As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Farming News 2.00 Coronation Street 2.55 Film: Shane 5.15-5.25 Cartoon Time 10.45 Barry Manilow 11.50 In the Heat of the Night 12.40 Quiz Night 1.10 I Spy 2.05 Stand Up 2.35 Film: The Man From Down Under 4.30 The ITV Chart Show 5.20-5.30 TSW Jobfinder

TVS

As London except: 12.30-1.00 TVS News followed by Agenda 12.30 The Human Factor 1.00 Lord Mountbatten 2.00 The ITV Chart Show 3.00 The Twilight Zone 3.30 Pick of the Week 4.00 Hit Man and Her 5.00-5.30 A Taste of the South

TYNE TEES

As London except: 12.25am-1.00 Breakthroughs 2.00 The Spectacular World of Guinness Records 2.25 The Back Page 2.55 Film: A Day to Remember 4.30-5.25 Coronation Street 10.45 Prisoner: Cell Block H 12.40 Quiz Night 1.10 I Spy 2.05 Stand Up 2.35 Film: The Man From Down Under 4.30 The ITV Chart Show 5.20-5.30 Jobfinder

ULSTER

As London except: 12.30pm-1.00 Gardening Time 2.00 Guinness Book of Records 2.25 Sportsbeat Special 2.55 Film: Carry On Nurse 4.30-5.25 Coronation Street 10.45 Boxing 11.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H 12.40 Quiz Night 1.10 I Spy 2.05 Stand Up 2.34 Film: Man From Down Under 4.30-5.00 The ITV Chart Show

YORKSHIRE

As London except: 12.25pm Goals on Sunday 12.50-1.00 Calendar News 2.00 The Life and Times of Grizzly Adams 2.55-5.25 Film: Dark Victory 10.45 Alfred Hitchcock 11.15 Snowdown 12.15 Hoppenman 12.45 Pick of the Week 1.15 Twilight Zone 1.50 Chart Show 2.50 Family Theatre 3.45 Some Call It Jazz 4.15-5.30 Jobs

S4C

Starts: 6.00am Early Morning 9.25 The Adventures of TinTin 9.30 Boomi 10.00 A Week In Politics 10.45 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea 11.45 Keraplat! 12.00 The Waltons 12.55 Aces 1.20 O Bedwar Ben 2.00 Return to the Jade Sea 3.00 Cutting Edge 4.00 Film: This Day and Age? 5.30 Sinfonietta II 6.30 Gwn Tales 6.45 Sam Steffan 7.00 Newyddion 7.10 Hoffwch A Hoffiad 8.00 Hal Straeon 8.30 Dechrau Canu, Dechrau Canmol 9.00 Mwy Na Phapur Newydd 9.45 Fitness 10.05 Women in Tropical Places 11.50-12.35 Media Show

RTE 1

Starts: 10.25am Topics in the History of Mathematics 10.50 Discovering Portuguese 11.15 Morning Service 12.00 American Century 12.50 Marketplace 1.20 Little House on the Prairie 2.10 News followed by Booktimes 2.45 Film: Love Me or Leave Me 5.00 The Shape of the World 6.00 Angelus 6.01 So One Sunday 6.30 Scéal Amach An Bóthain 7.00 The Cosby Show 7.25 School Around the Corner 8.00 Where in the World 8.30 Glenroe 9.00 News 9.25 Sandy 10.20 Ashes to Ashes 10.50 Today Tonight 11.20 Stay Lucky 12.15-12.20 News

NETWORK 2

Starts: 9.45am Sesame Street 10.45 Chronicles 11.05 Ulysses 31 11.30 The Beatbox 1.30 Head to Toe 2.00 USSR & R 3.25 Il Mattinino Segreto 6.00 The Flying Doctors 6.55 Nuacht 7.00 Fair City 7.55 News 8.00 Dennis O'Neill 9.00 Film: All That Heaven Allows 10.35-11.20 Sports Special

RADIO 3

6.35-6.55am Open University (FM only) 6.55 Weather

7.00 Morning Concert: Bach (Violin Sonata in B minor, BWV 1014: Arthur Grumiaux, violin, Christiane Jaccottet, harpsichord); Beethoven, ed Zellner (Quintet in E flat: CO of Europe Wind Soloists)

7.30 News

7.35 Morning Concert (cont): Mussorgsky, arr Rimsky-Korsakov (Prelude, Dawn over the Moscow River, Khovanshchina: RPO); Bortnyansky (Sacred Concerto No 30: Chamber Choir of Moscow Conservatoire); Tchaikovsky (String Sextet in D minor, Souvenir de Florence: Borodin Quartet, with Yuri Bashmet, viola, Natalia Gutman, cello)

8.30 News

8.35 Music from the Dresden Court: Quantz (Horn Concerto in E flat: Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields, with Barry Tuckwell); Zelenka (Litaniae Lauretanae, ZWV 152: Stuttgart Chamber Choir; Tafelmusik Baroque Orchestra)

9.15 Isaac Stern and Friends: Bach (Violin Concerto No 1 in A minor, BWV 1041: Philadelphia Orchestra under Ormandy, with Isaac Stern); Mozart (Flute Quartet in D, K 285: Isaac Stern, violin, Jean-Pierre Rampal, flute, Salvatore Accardo, violin, Mstislav Rostropovich, cello); Dutilleux (Violin Concerto, L'Arbre des songes: French National Orchestra under Maazel, with Isaac Stern)

10.15 Music Weekly

11.00 From the Proms 1990: BBC Scottish SO under Jerzy Maksymiuk performs Beethoven (Symphony No 4 in B flat); James MacMillan (The Confession of Isobel Gowdie); Sibelius (Violin Concerto in D minor), incl 11.35 Interval Reading (r)

2.40pm Replay: In a broadcast from 1947, Professor I.A. Richards talks about "The Voice Alone" (r) 1.00 News

1.05 Your Concert Choice: Masek (Symphony in D: Prague CO); Boccherini (Quintet in C, Op 30 No 6, Night Music in the Streets of Madrid: Lucerne Festival Strings); Lipatti (Concertino in Classical Style for piano and orchestra, Op 3: Padua and Veneto CO, with Marco Vincenzi, piano); Shield (Three songs from Rosina: Philomusica of London, with Joan Sutherland, soprano); Martinů (Les Fresques de Piero della Francesca: Prague RSO)

2.30 Schubert Song Recital: Die Erwartung, D 159; Ritter Toggenburg, D 397; Die Bürgschaft, D 246; Hoffnung, D 637; Pilgerweise, D 789; Der Sweng, D 771; Todesmusik, D 758; Da Zügenglöcklein, D 871; Der blinde Knabe, D 833; Totengräbers Heimwehe, D 842; Der Winterabend, D 938, incl 3.20 Interval Reading

4.25 Bach (Brandenburg Concertos: No 3 in G, BWV 1048; No 6 in B flat, BWV 1051: Northern Sinfonia) (r)

5.00 Soundings: Michael Oliver explores the music, dance and history behind Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*

6.00 The Handmaid of the Lord: A sequence for Mothering Sunday

7.00 Brahms (Trio in E flat, Op 40: Barry Tuckwell, horn, Itzhak Perlman, violin, Vladimir Ashkenazy, piano)

7.30 Sunday Play: Undiscovered Country
● CHOICE: Written as *Das Weite Land* for the stage by Arthur Schnitzler, re-worked for the National Theatre by Tom Stoppard, and now adapted for radio by Gerry Jones: who deserves the lion's share of praise for the success of tonight's *Sunday Play*? Deciding this would mean divorcing the writing from Martin Jenkins's ingenious direction and from the superlative performances of the large cast headed by Ronald Pickup and Maureen O'Brien as the married couple on a sexual roundabout that turns as remorselessly as the better-known one in *La Ronde*, another bitter-sweet work by Schnitzler

9.20 Studio 7 Concert: BBC PO under Luciano Berio performs Berio (Formazioni, Epifanie)

10.15 Takacs String Quartet performs Haydn (Quartet in D minor, Op 76 No 2); Beethoven (Quartet in G, Op 18 No 2) (r)

11.05 Schumann (Three Romances, Op 28; Humoreske in B flat, Op 20: Christian Blackshaw, piano) (r)

12.00 News 12.05am Close

RADIO 4

(s) Stereo on FM

6.00am News Briefing; Weather 6.10 Prelude (s) 6.30 News; Morning Has Broken (s) 6.55 Weather

7.00 News 7.10 Sunday Papers 7.15 On Your Farm: George Macpherson meets José MacDonald, a Welsh black cattle breeder 7.40 Sunday, Incl 7.55 Weather

8.00 News 8.10 Sunday Papers 8.50 Sue Phillips speaks for the *Week's Good Cause* on behalf of the National Gardens Scheme which raises money for nursing and gardening charities 8.55 Weather

9.00 News

9.10 Sunday Papers

9.15 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke (r)

9.30 Morning Service from St Faith's Crypt Chapel in the Cathedral Church of St Paul, London (s)

10.15 The Archers: Omnibus edition

11.15 News Stand, with Peter Riddick

11.30 Pick of the Week, with Margaret Howard (s) (r)

12.15pm Desert Island Discs: Sue Lawley's castaway is the journalist Jeffrey Bernard (s) 12.55 Weather

1.00 The World This Weekend 1.55 Shipping Forecast

2.00 Gardeners' Question Time: Members of the Harpole Gardeners' Association in Northamptonshire put their queries to the panel. With Clay Jones in the chair

2.30 Talking Heads: Soldiering On. The fifth in a series of six monologues by Alan Bennett. Muriel (Stephanie Cole), recently widowed, has been left with no financial worries, until her son Giles decides to take control (s)

3.05 Imaginary Friends: The joys and insecurities of childhood, revealed through the memories of invented childhood companions (r)

3.30 The Radio Programme, with Laurie Taylor (s)

4.00 News; Analysis, with David Walker (r)

4.47 Time for Verse: Roger McGough reads a selection of his poetry and talks to Carol Ann Duffy (s)

5.00 News; Down Your Way: Christina Hardyment visits Carmel in South Lakeland, another of Arthur Ransome's favourite haunts

5.40 Dragons of a Feather: In the second of four programmes, Roger Worsley explains why the wren became king of the birds (r) 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

6.00 News; Sports Round-Up

6.15 The Professionals: Nursing. With the help of the BBC sound archives, nurse Philip Derbyshire explores the influence of Florence Nightingale (s) (r)

6.30 Europhile: Max Easterman looks behind the headlines in the European papers (r)

7.00 InBusiness: The Credit Strike. Presented by Peter Day (r) (s)

7.30 Bookshelf: Nigel Forde talks to Sir Kingsley Amis (r)

8.00 Punters: Listeners report on a variety of issues (r)

8.40 Reading Aloud: Brian Sewell reads from *Peter Langan: A Memoir*, which completed Peter Langan's unfinished book, *A Life with Food* (s)

9.00 Enquire Within: Dilly Barlow finds out about the origins of the parliamentary dispatch box and why some people remember their dreams (r)

9.15 The Natural History Programme looks at the increase in mute swans (r) 9.59 Weather

10.00 News

10.15 Tradition v Change: Mark Geller documents the case of orthodox Judaism in his examination of the dilemmas facing religion in the modern world. Taking part are leading authorities on Jewish law, including Rabbis Nachum Rabinowitch and Norman Lamm, and the Chief Rabbi elect, Jonathan Sacks (s)

11.00 In Committee: The work of Parliament's select committees

11.30 Seeds of Faith: The Visitation of Mary. The composer Francis Grier reflects on the fourth of seven stories of women in the Bible (s)

12.00-12.30am News, incl 12.20 Weather 12.33 Shipping Forecast

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/285m; 1089kHz/275m; FM-97.6-99.8 Radio 2: FM-88-90.2. Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m; FM-90-92.4. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM-92.4-94.6. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m. World Service: MW 648kHz/463m. Jazz FM 102.2 LBC: 1152kHz/261m; FM 97.3. Capital: 1548kHz/194m; FM 95.8. GLR: 1458kHz/206m; FM 94.9; Melody FM 104.9.

SATELLITE

SKY ONE

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites.
6.00am Bailey's Bird 6.30 Castaway 7 00 Fun Factory 11.00 Eight is Enough 12.00 That's Incredible 1.00pm The New Adventures of Wonder Woman 2.00 WWF Superstars of Wrestling 3.00 Those Amazing Animals 4.00 The Love Boat 5.00 Small Wonder 5.30 Sky Star Search 6.30 The Simpsons 7 00 21 Jump Street 8.00 The Thorn Birds 10.00 Falcon Crest 11.00 Entertainment Tonight 12.00 Skytext

SKY NEWS

● Via the Astra satellite.
News on the hour
5.00am Sunrise 5.30 Target 9.30 Those Were the Days 10.30 Getaway 11.30 The Reporters 1.30pm Target 2.30 Our World 3.30 The Lords 4.30 Those Were the Days 5.00 Live at Five 6.30 The Reporters 7.30 Our World 8.30 Target 10.30 The Reporters 11.30 Our World 12.30am The Reporters 1.30 Target 2.30 Getaway 3.30 Getaway 4.30 The Reporters

SKY NEWS

● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
News on the hour.
5.00am Sunrise 5.30 Target 9.30 Those Were the Days 10.30 Getaway 11.30 The Reporters 1.30pm The Dolmetsch Years 4.30 Beauty Queens Elizabeth Arden 5.30 Ballet Dance Theatre of Harlem 7 30 Opera Puccini's Tosca 10.30 Concert Zemlinsky/Moussorgsky 11 30 Our World 12.30am The Reporters 1 30 Target 2.30 Getaway 3.30 Getaway 4.30 The Reporters

SKY MOVIES

● Via the Astra satellite.
6.00am Showcase
8.00 Fatso (1980): Dom DeLuise plays an obese Italian-American who decides to lose weight when he witnesses the death of his similarly rotund cousin
10.00 Funny Farm (1988): An urbanite couple (Chevy Chase, Madolyn Smith) retreat to the country
12.00 Ninotchka (1939, b/w): A Parisian playboy (Melvyn Douglas) falls for a stern communist envoy (Greta Garbo)
2.00pm Big Business (1988): Comedy about a pair of identical twin sisters (Bette Midler, Lily Tomlin) who are switched at birth and meet up in later life
4.00 The Birch Interval (1976): A young girl goes to live with her Amish relatives
6.00 Return from the River Kwai (1989): An American pilot joins up with a team of British guerillas to rescue British POWs from the Japanese Starring Nick Tate 7 40 Projector
8.00 Clara's Heart (1988) With his parents in the throes of an impending divorce, Neil Patrick Harris develops a special relationship with his nanny (Whoopi Goldberg)
10.00 The Telephone (1988) An unemployed actress (Whoopi Goldberg) spends most of her life on the phone
11.25 The Other (1972) Identical twins, one good one evil switch identities
1.05am Capone (1975) Ben Gazzara stars as the American gangster Al Capone
2.45 The Annihilators (1985): The inhabitants of a small town hire a group of Vietnam veterans to break the grip of a local gang
4.00 Crystal Heart (1987) A rock singer falls in love with a young man who is confined to a glass room Ends at 5.40

EUROSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite.
6.00am Hour of Power 7.00 Fun Factory 9.00 Trans World Sport 10.00 Men's European Cup Basketball 11.00 Sunday Alive Superbouts, Formula 1 Grand Prix of the USA: Rodeo Shootdown; Light Ski Games. Handball — Six-Team Tournament; Pole Vaulting World Indoor Athletics Rodeo Showdown 7 30pm The Game of Billions — Football Documentary 8.30 Formula 1 Motor Racing Grand Prix of the USA 11.00 Lights Ski Games 12.00 Golf — Lyons Serie 1.00am British Touring Cars 1990 Season

SCREENSPORT

● Via the Astra satellite.
7 00am Spanish Football Highlights 7 30 ATP Volvo Tennis Chicago Indoor Men 9 30 Sport de France 10.00 Ice Hockey NHL 1991 12.00 Stop-USWA Wrestling 1.00pm Powersports International 2.00 Weekend Live European PGA Volvo Tour 3.30 Sport de France 4.00 Go 5.00 Weekend Live NBA Basketball 7.30 World Rally Champs Sweden 8.30 German Rally Champs 9.00 Ten Pin Bowling 10.15 Motorsport Rallycross 11.15 World Snooker Classics

MTV

● Via the Astra satellite.
Twenty-four hours of rock and pop

LIFESTYLE

● Via the Astra satellite.
12.00 Johnny Ringo 12.30pm The Bill Dana Show 1.00 The Joan Rivers Show 1.50 He Shooted He Scored 2.45 Spain Spain International Cuisine 3.00 World Class Championship Wrestling 4.00 Rocky Jones 4.25 Afternoon Cinema Paris Express 5.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Programme 8.00 Close 10.00 The Sell-a-Vision Shopping Programme 12.00 Satellite Jukebox

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
12.15pm Mary Queen of Scots (1971): Vanessa Redgrave and Glenda Jackson star as Mary Stuart and Elizabeth I
2.25 C.H.O.M.P.S (1979) A young inventor produces a mechanical guard dog
4.00 Love Story (1970) Ryan O'Neal and Ali MacGraw star as the tragic lovers
6.00 Oliver's Story (1978) Tearjerker sequel to *Love Story* with the heartbroken O'Neal pursuing a new romance with a wealthy heiress (Candice Bergen)
8.00 Elvira, Mistress of the Dark (1988): Campy comedy about a television horror show personality (Cassandra Peterson) who becomes involved in a hunt for a magic book
10.00 Scandal (1989): An account of the scandalous liason between cabinet minister John Profumo and showgirl Christine Keeler in the Sixties
11.55 For Us the Living (1983): The true story of the black activist Medgar Evers, who was assassinated in the Sixties
1.30am Driving Academy (1987) Comedy in the *Police Academy* vein as learner drivers struggle to gain their licences Ends at 3.10

THE SPORTS CHANNEL

● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
10.30am Scottish Football Magazine 11 30 This is the Sports Channel 12.30pm Sports Channel Special Live Italian Football Live One Day Cricket — West Indies v Australia; Live Draw for the FA Cup Semi-Finals British Rugby League, FA Cup Football Sixth Round Review Scottish Football Magazine, One Day Cricket — West Indies v Australia

THE POWER STATION

● Via the Marcopolo satellite.
8.00am Twenty hours of rock and pop

RADIO 1

FM Stereo and MW. 5.00am Tim Smith 7.00 The Bruno and Liz Breakfast Show 9.30 Dave Lee Travis 12.30pm Pick of the Pops. The Top 20 charts of 1984, 1978 and 1982 2.30 Philip Schofield 4.30 The Complete UK Top 40 7.00 Anne Nightingale's Request Show 9.00 Andy Kershaw 11.00-2.00am John Peel

RADIO 2

FM Stereo 4.00am David Allen 6.00 Graham Knight 7.30 Don Maclean says Good Morning Sunday 9.05 Richard Baker with Melodies for You 11.00 Desmond Carrington Radio 2 All-Time Greats 2.00pm Benny Green 3.00 Alan Dell with Sounds Easy 4.00 Palm Court Time 4.30 You Can Sing the Next Song (r) 5.00 Charles Chester 7.00 John Lawrenson 8.00 London Winds 8.30 Sunday Half Hour 9.00 Alan Keith with Your Hundred Best Tunes 10.00 Radio 2 Arts Programme 12.05am Personal Choice: Denis Healey (r) 1.00 Len Jackson with Night Ride 3.00-4.00 A Little Night Music

RADIO 3

5.00am World Service: Newsdesk 5.30 Meridian Reports 7 00 News and 24 Hours 7.30 Sunday Edition, incl 7.30, 8.00,

Thatcher warns US on Europe

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

MARGARET Thatcher yesterday broke her silence on the European issues which helped end her premiership, attacking the utopian aspirations of those who wanted a European superstate. In an outspoken address to American conservative groups, she said a struggle was underway for Europe's future and it was in the American interest that her view prevail over that of her critics.

She said that if Europe had had a united foreign and defence policy last autumn, America would have been left to "stand alone" after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. "Compromise would almost certainly have left Europe on the sidelines", she said. In a speech which triumphantly re-emphasised the virtues of the decade in which she shared the centre stage with Ronald Reagan, she said: "The United States should continue to play that dominant role in Nato to which we have become accustomed". She praised the wartime leadership of George Bush as "of the highest order" but gave a warning of Washington's "exaggerated hopes" about the European Community.

She said that protectionist pressure from Brussels would weaken the military ties across the Atlantic.

Attacking the Soviet Union's failure to fulfil its treaty commitments to cut conventional forces in Europe, Mrs Thatcher said that the new Soviet uncertainty ought to be a warning to Europe that "international dangers can rarely be predicted". Mr Gorbachev still deserved support but "Nato must not be discarded".

She suggested that it was now time to consider whether the plans to reduce spending on defence should be revised.

She criticised the German refusal to send troops to the Gulf, saying: "A full commitment to the defence of international freedom and stability requires risking life as well as treasure". She also mocked the French notion that a new Europe could be reconstructed from a philosophical idea rather than from the hard lessons of history.

She said some of the aspirations of a European superstate were noble but others were cynical and naive. Political institutions could not be imposed if they were to endure. "A community lacking a common language can have no public opinion to which the bureaucrats are accountable".

Mrs Thatcher reinforced the private fears of senior administration officials that a European superstate would almost certainly develop interests and attitudes at variance with those of America.

Kremlin's 'shadow masters'

Continued from page 1

President Bush has conspicuously appealed not to Mr Gorbachev, but to the "Soviet leadership" or the "Soviet government" to return to a reformist path.

Mr Shevardnadze, who is setting up a Western-style foreign policy think-tank in Moscow, believed that for Mr Gorbachev to resign now would be "the worst option", and appeared to denounce Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Republic, who recently demanded just that. From a Soviet point of view, the most striking thing about Mr Shevardnadze's remarks was that he is still giving Mr Gorbachev the benefit of any doubt rather than assume that he bears much of the responsibility for the recent hardline shift in policy.

While many reformers would agree that there are alternative centres of power, most say Mr Gorbachev must be held accountable for failure to bring these forces to heel.

MICHAEL POWELL

Herald of spring: the annual show of crocuses at the Royal Britannic Gardens, Kew, are now reaching their peak. They have flowered from 1.6 million corms planted in 1987

Social services chief resigns

By JILL SHERMAN
SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE director of Rochdale social services resigned last night after criticism by a judge of his department's handling of alleged child abuse cases. Gordon Littlemore said that he was leaving with regret.

Mr Justice Douglas Brown said that the children's stories were fantasy and he allowed ten of them to go home. The judge said that social workers had not heeded government guidelines laid down after the Cleveland affair and criticised officials for not keeping proper records of interviews. He also said that leading questions had been asked encouraging children to exaggerate and fabricate stories.

Following a three month hearing in camera at the High Court in Manchester, the judge ruled in public that none of the 17 Rochdale children taking from their homes had suffered ritual abuse. The local authority had contended that the children's talk of sexual abuse and the killings of babies and animals was not fantasy but could have been drug induced. The judge said, however, that there was no evidence that the families had used drugs nor that babies were missing or had been found dead or mutilated.

John Pierce, Rochdale council chief executive, who received the resignation with deep sorrow, said that the authority would implement Mr Justice Douglas Brown's recommendations for improving procedures. He said that Mr Littlemore's decision was his own and was an example of his willingness to accept the weight of the responsibility that fell upon him.

Mr Littlemore, who has worked at Rochdale since 1974, said that the social workers in the cases acted in good faith and what they believed was in the best interests of the children. "Within the social services department we have highly motivated and dedicated workers who I am sure will continue to provide excellent care and support for children, families and other vulnerable people in the borough." None of the staff are being disciplined by the council.

Mr Pierce said that the council would not try to reopen the cases. "Nor are we here to put on a brave face or to claim that we did nothing wrong. We accept what the judge has said. That means accepting that we made mistakes and that there are lessons we and every other social services department must learn. But to imagine that this is a simple matter of winners and losers is to forget the appallingly difficult job we, as a society, ask our social workers to do."

Mr Pierce said action had already been taken, including the appointment of a child protection manager. Three more senior officers would be appointed to organise and record case conferences. Interviews would be videotaped and any inaccuracies in minutes of case conferences would be rectified immediately. The social workers involved were not handling abuse cases. Richard Farnell, council leader, said: "Nothing the judge said was critical of the professionalism of individual members of staff."

Farewell to holidays with Club 18-30

Continued from page 1

the driver. Excess was, it seemed, built into the Club 18-30 experience because of the company's policy of paying their reps only half their salaries up-front. The rest was made up from commission on the tickets he sold for the parties he had organised.

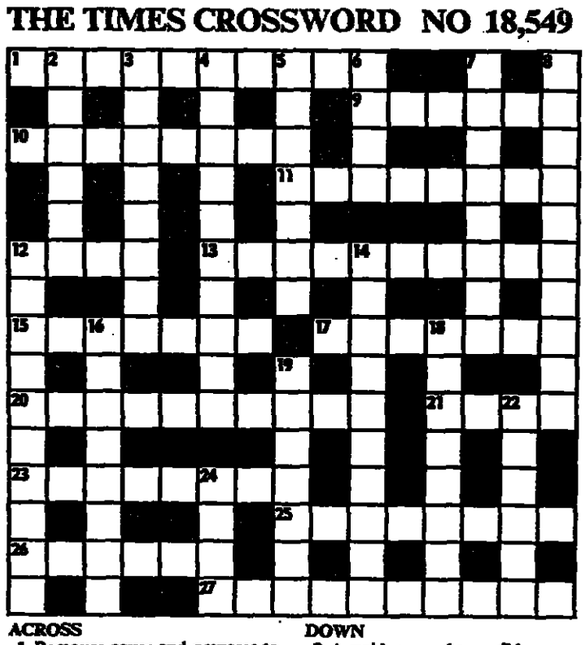
The rep had to make sure they were good parties. So we had competitions to drink as much *sangria* as possible, competitions to dive for bottles of Asti Spumante and endurance games on the beach involving pints of beer. There were organised games of strip the girls and strip the rep, and unorganised games of strip in your hotel room.

The San Antonio police were kept busy. By the end of June 1987, when I went, there had been nearly 150 tourist incidents dealt with by the police and these did not include petty crimes but more serious incidents.

In July every year, Spain's specially trained riot police are drafted into San Antonio to cope with gangs of beer-soaked Britons. The week before I arrived a Club 18-30 girl had died after walking in front of a coach on her way back from a bar. San Antonio has 470 bars.

Club 18-30's defence was always that, as the biggest youth holiday company its chances of getting into the headlines were always greater. It also said, rightly, that its reputation for offering sex holidays was greatly exaggerated. This was true. There was too much drink to do it.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 18,549



ACROSS

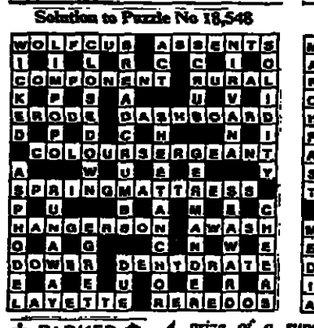
1 Removes cover and prepares to receive deliveries (5,5).
9 Showing arrogance in high position, with contemptuous expression (6).
10 Writer creating leading characters in new serial (8).
11 Consideration for others — a Liberal platitude (8).
12 TNT is in these detonators (4).
13 Rich Milanese noble goes to America (10).
15 Disorder in a Mediterranean port (7).
17 Shoemaker's work on side of Wellington (7).
20 Mae West's biography found in this? (4,6).
21 Name Lawrence acquired as author (4).
23 Action halted as cold wind engulfs one (8).
25 Not a well-earned degree (8).
26 Graduation from new university with a new church (6).
27 Go to work on the railway (4,6).

DOWN

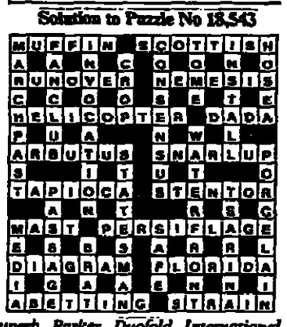
2 A maiden — and a possible name for her? (6).
3 Explanation for mislaying of six geese (8).
4 Enormous sort of car for a Chinese native (5,5).
5 Dancing girl mostly supportive of Jack's rebellious son (7).
6 Pipeline put under water, we hear (4).
7 Roman force I hit hard, as sacker of Rome (8).
8 Torture for diminutive general's men (10).
12 Fill gap in bouquet, say (10).
14 Fly over land that's constantly burning (5,5).
16 Basic equestrian ability achieved by vast majority (4,4).
18 Libertine chaps, to begin with, like a heavenly body (8).
19 Frolic in "Blithe Spirit" (7).
22 Engaged in sailing manoeuvre in storm (6).
24 The same endless newspapers turned up (4).

Concise Crossword, page 22

Solution to Puzzle No 18,548



Solution to Puzzle No 18,543



PARKER DUOFOLD

A prize of a superb Parker Duofold International Fountain Pen, with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address.....

WORD GAMES

By Philip Howard

DOZYWOCIE
a. Asleep on sentry duty
b. A pony cart
c. Lifelong support

HAIN
a. A hay barn
b. A cobbler's nail
c. To save or preserve

REREMOUSE
a. A bat
b. The rearguard
c. To remove again

LAMIGER
a. A cripple
b. Bearing arms
c. St Andrew's cross

Answers on page 13

TELEPHONE

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0898 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Heralds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

C. London (within N & S Circs.)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T.	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

TIDES

TODAY
London 5.54 pm to 6.27 am
Bristol 6.04 pm to 6.37 am
Edinburgh 3.43 pm to 4.43 am
Manchester 6.01 pm to 6.37 am
Penzance 6.17 pm to 6.46 am

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: H C de Cassella, Cedar House, Newton Solney, Burton-on-Trent; M G Read, Laurel Drive, Newport, Shropshire; J C L Sharp, Chatham Avenue, Hayes, Kent; J Slater, Commonside, Brownhills, Walsall; E Lemmon, Queensberry Beeches, Thornhill, Dumfriesshire.

WEATHER

Early rain over northern Scotland, clearing gradually. Much of central and southern Scotland, Northern Ireland and western England and Wales will be cloudy with rain, changing to showers later. More broken cloud elsewhere with sunshine and showers. Mild everywhere. Outlook: showers and sunny spells; more rain later.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: b=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	19	66	c	Madrid	11	52	c
Akrotiri	17	63	s	Majorca	15	59	c
Alex'dria	19	66	s	Malaga	16	61	f
Algiers	14	57	c	Malta	20	68	s
Amst'dm	12	54	c	Melb'rne	34	93	s
Athens	18	64	s	Miami*	27	81	f
Barbados*	29	84	f	Milan	11	52	r
Barcelna	13	55	c	Montreal*	2	36	c
Belgrade	11	52	s	Moscow	-1	30	s
Berlin	10	50	s	Munich	21	70	s
Bermuda*	22	72	s	Naples	25	77	f
Biarritz	15	59	f	N Delhi	23	73	f
Bordx'x	18	64	f	N York*	10	50	c
Brussels	11	52	c	Nice	14	57	r
Budapest	6	43	c	Oslo	3	37	c
B Aires*	30	86	f	Paris	14	57	s
Cairo	22	72	s	Peking	1	34	sn
Cape Tn	22	72	s	Perth	24	75	f
C'blanca	16	61	c	Prague	9	48	f
Chicago*	0	32	s	Reykjavik	1	34	f
Ch'church	16	61	s	Rhodes	18	64	s
Cologne	13	55	f	Rio de J	30	86	s
C'phagn	5	41	f	Rome	23	73	c
Corfu	18	64	s	Salzburg	22	72	s
Dublin	7	45	r	S F'risco*	13	55	s
Dubrovnik	19	66	f	Santiago*	23	73	s
Faro	15	59	c	Seoul	1	34	sn
Florence	18	64	c	Sing'por	31	88	f
Frankfurt	13	55	c	Stockholm	3	37	f
Funchal	18	64	f	Strasb'rg	13	55	s
Geneva	14	57	c	Sydney	27	81	s
Gibraltar	13	55	r	Tangier	14	57	c
Helsinki	1	34	s	Tel Aviv	17	63	c
Hong K	23	73	c	Tenerife	19	66	c
Innsbruck	16	61	r	Tokyo	6	43	r
Istanbul	8	46	f	Toronto*	-4	25	f
Jo'burg*	22	72	c	Tunis	24	75	f
Karachi	26	79	c	Valencia	15	59	c
L Palmas	20	68	c	Vanc'ver*	5	41	r

* denotes figures are least available

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.52	2.37
Austria Sch	21.55	20.15
Belgium Fr	63.00	59.00
Canada $	2.29	2.14
Denmark Kr	11.74	11.04
Finland Mkk	7.42	6.97
France Fr	10.35	9.70
Germany Dm	3.055	2.865
Greece Dr	329	309
Hong Kong $	15.20	14.20
Ireland Pt	1.14	1.07
Italy Lira	2280	2140
Japan Yen	271	254
Netherlands Gld	3.455	3.225
Norway Kr	11.52	11.22
Portugal Esc	255.25	240.25
South Africa Rd	5.65	5.05
Spain Pta	189.25	178.25
Sweden Kr	11.30	10.62
Switzerland Fr	2.68	2.48
Turkey Lira	6800	6800
USA $	1.955	1.845
Yugoslavia Dnr	34.00	26.00

Rates for small denomination bank only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	.16	6	43	fog
Anglesey	-	.52	9	48	rain
Aviemore	-	.01	6	43	drizzle
Belfast	-	.28	7	45	rain
Birmingham	0.7	.21	11	52	rain
Blackpool	-	.27	11	52	rain
Bristol	4.7	.30	16	61	sunny
Buxton	-	.15	8	46	rain
Cardiff	5.7	.04	15	59	sunny
Douglas	-	.20	10	50	rain
Edinburgh	-	.12	6	43	fog
Eskdalemuir	-	.36	7	45	drizzle
Kinloss	-	.02	7	45	rain
Leeds	-	.07	8	46	rain
Lerwick	-	.11	5	41	rain
London	3.5	.07	15	59	bright
Manchester	-	.44	10	50	rain
Minehead	7.0	.02	13	55	sunny
Morecambe	-	.55	11	52	rain
Nottingham	-	.09	8	46	rain
Scarborough	-	.06	6	43	fog
Shanklin	7.9	.49	14	57	sunny
Stornoway	5.8	-	8	46	sunny
Teignmouth	8.0	.04	11	52	sunny
Tenby	4.8	.09	13	55	bright
Tiree	-	-	9	48	cloudy
Torquay	8.3	.03	13	55	sunny
Wick	-	.01	7	45	fog

These are Thursday's figures

Thursday: Highest day temp: Saunton Sands, Devon, 17C (63F), lowest day max: St Abb's Head, Borders, 05C (41F); highest rainfall, Great Malvern, Hereford & Worcester, 1.10 in; highest sunshine: Bournemouth, Dorset, 9.2 hr.

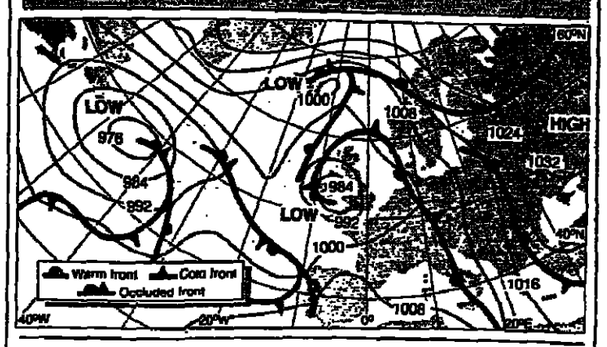
Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 14C (57F); min 6pm to 6am, 05C (41F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.03 in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 2.3 hr.

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 07C (45F); min 6pm to 6am, 06C (43F). Rain: 24hr. to 6pm, 0.19 in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, nil.

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	7.17	5.8	7.35	5.7
Aberdeen	6.53	3.1	7.57	3.0
Avonmouth			12.09	9.2
Belfast	4.52	2.9	5.39	2.8
Cardiff	11.48	8.7		
Devonport	10.53	4.2	11.38	4.3
Dover	4.19	5.0	5.01	4.8
Falmouth	10.23	4.0	11.08	4.1
Glasgow	5.50	3.7	6.02	3.6
Harwich	4.55	3.0	5.13	2.9
Holyhead	3.48	4.2	4.42	3.9
Hull	11.37	5.6		
Ilfracombe	11.11	6.3		
King's Lynn	11.50	4.5		
Leith	8.18	4.2	9.10	4.1
Liverpool	4.31	7.0	5.13	6.6
Lowestoft	3.16	1.9	3.33	1.9

Tide measured in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.



TODAY: Sun rises: 6.30 am; Sun sets: 5.54 pm; Moon rises: 3.08 am; Moon sets: 10.19 am; New moon March 16

TOMORROW: Sun rises: 6.27 am; Sun sets: 5.56 pm; Moon rises: 3.49 am; Moon sets: 11.21 am; New moon March 16

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SIGHT SAVERS WEEK 9-16 MARCH

PLEASE DON'T TURN A BLIND EYE

Children like this desperately need your help. Being blind is a severe handicap, wherever you live. But when it's in a poor community without access to proper medical care, education, or training, the future holds no promise.

Our Sight Savers projects restore sight to over 250,000 needlessly blind people every year, working in over 40 developing countries. We help all sorts of people to see again - babies, young people, adults, the elderly.

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ROYAL COMMONWEALTH SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND
P.O. Box 191, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 4YF
Telephone: (0444) 412424 Registered Charity Number: 207944

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(Please tick box as applicable) ☐ Please send me more information ☐ I enclose a donation of £ _____
If you wish to make your donation by Access or Visa card please state cardholder no. My card is ACCESS/VISA (delete which is not applicable)
Card expiry date _____ Cardholders Signature _____
Name Mr/Mrs/Ms _____
Address _____
_____ Postcode _____
Post to: Sight Savers, Royal Commonwealth Society For The Blind, PO Box 191, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH16 4YF

● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 23-28,34
● WEEKEND MONEY 29-33
● SPORT 35-40

BUSINESS

Business Editor
John Bell

SATURDAY MARCH 9 1991

WEEKEND MONEY

Oil 'may plunge to $12'

WORLD crude oil prices could plunge to $12 a barrel from their present levels of about $20, according to Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the former Saudi Arabian oil minister.

Prices depended on how quickly Iraq's production was resumed and on how soon Kuwait's damaged oilfields could be repaired, he said.

The sheikh was speaking before Monday's meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Geneva..... Page 24

Prize fighter

Sir Christopher Hogg, who turned the ailing Courtaulds group into one of the success stories of the decade, has collected surprisingly few enemies in a lifetime of glittering prizes. But as he admitted to Gillian Bowditch, the army showed up some of the flaws in his leadership skills..... Page 25

US jobless up

Unemployment in America rose to its highest level in four years last month, reaching 6.5 per cent of the workforce, up from 6.2 per cent..... Page 24

Shares stall

A late bout of profit taking ended a further attempt to breach the stock market's all-time high. The FT-SE 100 index finally closed 17.3 up at 2,455.0Page 26

Tax scrutiny

The black economy is coming under increasing scrutiny by the Inland Revenue, which has stepped up its efforts to recover unpaid tax. Page 29

Cash stash

Putting away extra money against retirement is an excellent idea, but not necessarily in the form of additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) paid into company pension schemes..... Page 30

Your letters

A reader who cut up a Barclaycard and demanded the return of the £8 annual charge is bemused to discover the amount has been returned in the form of a credit balance on the now unusable card..... Page 32

Sex quiz

Life assurance applicants may soon have to answer questions about their sexual behaviour, whatever their sexual orientation, after a rise in Aids among heterosexuals..... Page 31

Minor cards

Lloyds Bank has joined the move by the clearing banks to supply cheque guarantee cards to 16 year olds, giving minors the means to run up a potential £1,500 debt that is not legally recoverablePage 33

* * * * * *

Credit cards offer last-ditch hope to stranded travellers

By Sara McConnell

SCHEDULED Air Europe travellers stranded when the airline went into administration yesterday should be able to get their money back if they bought their ticket direct from the airline with a credit card.

But the position is less clear cut for travellers who bought their ticket through a travel agent. Under the Consumer Credit Act, cardholders can claim on their card for goods or services worth between £100 and £10,000 that the retailer or merchant failed to provide. Passengers who booked their flights directly with Air Europe and whose flights were cancelled should have no trouble establishing that Air Europe had not fulfilled its contract. However, banks admit that buying a ticket through a travel agent on an airline that subsequently suspends flights is a grey area under the Consumer Credit Act because technically the cardholder's contract is with the travel agent, not the airline. Banks interpret the act differently and some may not pay out.

Barclaycard said it would be making no difference between claims from cardholders who bought direct and those who bought through a travel agent. A spokeswoman said: "If a flight wasn't provided this morning and cardholders should have flown but haven't, they should claim if they bought the ticket with a Barclaycard. We will make no difference between direct tickets and those bought through a travel agent. They should write to the address at the top of the statement." Lloyds, National Westminster and Midland, which operate Access cards, confirmed that holders who had booked direct would be covered.

Midland said there would be no difference between cardholders who had bought through a travel agent and those who had bought direct, and suggested people started putting claims through.

A Lloyds spokeswoman said: "If a cardholder has booked direct, customers should be entitled to a refund under section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act. But if customers bought through a travel agent, the contract would technically be between the customer and the travel agent. We would look at cases on their merits." She added: "Claiming on a card should be the last resort. If Air Europe does go into receivership, which it has not yet done, people should first approach the receivers. Like all insurance we ask people to check if they are covered elsewhere."

NatWest said people who bought through travel agents should approach them first. "The customer would need to satisfy the bank that the good or service was not provided because the contract is between the cardholder and the agent," it said.

If travel agents are members of the Association of British Travel Agents (Abta), their customers should be covered by an Abta bond, an indemnity policy that would pay out if travellers claimed against a member. Abta said that most travel insurance policies would not cover the collapse of a scheduled airline.

"If people are booked on a scheduled airline, they will have to rebook on another airline, pay again and claim back if the airline continues running," said an Abta spokesman. "As far as we know the only insurance policy which will pay out if a scheduled airline goes bust is the Travelguard Gold policy from Accident & General, our accredited travel insurer." He said travellers may be covered if they bought their ticket with a credit card.

About 25,000 people are away on package tours with ILG, Air Europe's parent company, with a further several hundred thousand booked to travel in the next few weeks. These tours are still running and include Intasun, Global and Club 18-30 holidays. These people on charter flights are protected by an Abta bond of £60 million.

Carlton may head TV-am franchise bid

By Melinda Wittstock, Media Correspondent

CARLTON Communications is believed to have linked with Independent Television News, *The Daily Telegraph* and NBC, the American television network, to bid for TV-am's national breakfast television franchise.

Carlton, headed by Michael Green, is thought to have set its sights on a bid for the Thames Television franchise while putting in a "second-choice" bid for TVS Entertainment. Carlton would be restricted to a 20 per cent stake in the TV-am franchise under government ownership restrictions if it succeeded with a bid for either Thames or TVS.

Under non-European Community and cross-media ownership rules, *The Daily Telegraph* and NBC would also be restricted to 20 per cent each.

It is not clear whether ITN plans to take an equity stake in the venture. Given the high costs of moving to a new building and covering the Gulf war, it may simply be contracted to supply the news for the breakfast franchise.

The consortium would have to find other investors to bid for the TV-am licence, unless Carlton drops plans to bid for a Channel 3 franchise.

Bob Phillis, chief executive of ITN and former managing director of Carlton, said yesterday he could not comment until next week. Before taking over at ITN, Mr Phillis was in charge of developing Carlton's Channel 3 bid plans.

A Carlton spokesman would not comment on any plans to target TV-am, adding that the company would not confirm any deals until the May 15 application deadline. *The Daily Telegraph* will make an announcement about its bid plans in ten days.

TV-am is regarded as one of the most vulnerable ITV incumbents, given its immense profitability. Some believe that newcomers would also find it easier to pass the so-called "quality threshold" with a bid for TV-am rather than a larger ITV company.

One prominent broadcaster and media consultant not linked to the consortium said: "ITN, Carlton, the *Telegraph* and NBC could walk all over TV-am in terms of quality. It is also far easier for the ITC [Independent Television Commission] to allow the breakfast franchise to change hands. There is no contribution to the ITV network to worry about."

The Really Useful Group, which said last year that it was interested in the TV-am franchise, announced last week that it would not bid for any ITV company.

Green: 'four-way link up'

MAI Broadcasting, the consortium put together by Michael Palin, the actor, and Roger Laughton, former BBC co-productions director, would not rule out a bid for TV-am. MAI, however, is thought likely to bid for TVS.

☐ HALE & Pace, the comedy duo, have been "golden handcuffed" to London Weekend Television, the producer of their last three television series.

LWT has secured the loyalty of many of its top presenters and stars, including Melvyn Bragg, Cilla Black and Brian Walden, with contracts running until 1995 to ensure it passes the "quality threshold" in the Channel 3 licence tender.

Gareth Hale and Norman Pace yesterday signed a three-year exclusive contract worth £500,000.

The "golden handcuffs", worth millions of pounds in total, are to keep leading names from being poached by rival bidders before and after LWT's bid to renew its franchise.

Melvyn Bragg was one of 44 LWT executives and managers locked into the group a year ago with the introduction of a bonus and share incentive scheme. The scheme would leave the executives with 14.7 per cent of the company if performance targets are met by 1993.

Providing LWT wins its franchise, the scheme is certain to make millionaires of Mr Bragg, Greg Dyke, LWT's chief executive, and Christopher Bland, the chairman, among others.

BOB GARRON

Not taken for a ride: a member of Air Europe's ground staff hands back an air ticket to a would-be traveller

Lenders send ILG into collapse

By Angela Mackay

INTERNATIONAL Leisure Group, Britain's second biggest travel company, was forced into administration after a syndicate of lenders led by Citibank called in the receiver to two of the company's aircraft leasing subsidiaries.

The move was precipitated by ILG's failure to raise about £45 million needed to fund the group until the end of May, when summer holiday income would boost cash inflow.

Lloyds, the company's main bank, had offered to lend a further £25 million as long as ILG, headed by Harry Goodman, could find a similar amount. When the company failed to find the new cash late on Thursday, Citibank, which leads a syndicate of 14 banks, called in Ernst & Young as administrative receiver to two of ILG's subsidiaries, AE Finance and AE Norsk.

ILG called in KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, which was appointed yesterday by the High Court to five ILG companies.

The Citibank syndicate leases ten aircraft, worth about £200 million, to Air Europe, ILG's airline subsidiary. Air Europe flights were suspended yesterday.

ILG's dilemma occurred despite a £40 million cash injection last week from Werner Rey, the Swiss financier who in turn took a 49 per cent stake in the company. Mr Rey's parent company, Omni Holdings, called in a receiver on Wednesday, adding to the dwindling confidence in ILG's ability to survive in the long term. Tim Hayward, of Peat Marwick, said ILG had gross liabilities of £480 million at the end of October last year, but he had not had time to estimate current debt.

Mr Hayward added that ILG had lost £56 million in the past three months and that the £40 million invested by Omni had been spent "almost immediately" after it arrived in the United Kingdom.

Mr Hayward said there had been several enquiries about buying Air Europe and Intasun, ILG's main subsidiaries. He added that Intasun was a profitable company.

Dan Air, Air Europe's main rival, had approached ILG to buy Air Europe, but talks broke down. Yesterday, shares in Davies and Newman, Dan Air's owner rose 40p to 155p after news of ILG's collapse.

☐ Executives at Pan Am failed to gain any deadline extension on a multi-million loan due to be repaid by midnight New York time last night. Failure to pay could ground the airline and force it into liquidation (Philip Robinson writes from New York). Talks for an extension to the deadline started on Thursday, but sources said yesterday that none had been granted.

Pan Am is due to repay up to $100 million to Bankers Trust and $50 million to United Airlines. This was to have come from the $290 million earned from the sale of Pan Am's London routes and its operations at Heathrow to United Airlines, British permission for which has not been granted.

Power shares ballot likely

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

GOVERNMENT advisers to the flotation of the electricity generating companies meet this morning to discuss scaling down allocations to the 1.93 million investors who applied for shares.

A limited ballot is likely to be adopted for those who failed to pre-register with the share information office. The retail offer was five times subscribed, with £3.13 billion chasing the shares on offer.

Japanese institutions were expected to have bid aggressively in the "back end" tender offer, under which 16 per cent of shares conditionally placed were re-offered to institutions prepared to pay the highest price. Japanese groups may emerge as owners of more than 20 per cent of the issue. Their enthusiasm is expected to help push the shares to a premium when trading starts at 2.30pm on Tuesday.

Yesterday, 100p part-paid PowerGen shares were quoted at 126p, and National Power shares at 119p when IG Index, the financial bookmaker, closed its grey market book, ahead of the tender bids.

Extra shares, provisionally allocated to institutions, have now been earmarked for retail investors under the clawback procedure. Even so, the retail offer remains three times subscribed. Investors who pre-registered for shares are likely to be favoured in the allocation arrangements over last-minute applicants who may simply be seeking to stag the issue and sell early for a quick profit.

Private investors who registered and applied for the minimum package of 300 shares in the two companies are likley to receive all the shares they sought.

Early indications were that even those who applied for up to 2,000 shares may escape any scaling down. However, applicants for larger volumes could face a sharp scaling back, or a ballot.

Battle for Grattan intensifies

Sears tops £151m German offer

By Gillian Bowditch

TWO new bids for Grattan, the mail order arm of Next, came in rapid succession yesterday as the auction for the business became more intense. Otto-Versand, the German mail order group, offered £151 million for Grattan early in the morning but that was soon exceeded by Sears with a £155 million figure.

Next has strongly recommended the Otto offer but the recommendation came before Sears had offered £4 million more. However, David Jones, chief executive of Next, made it clear he had a better relationship with Otto than with Sears. In a circular to shareholders Next says the Otto offer is more attractive in qualitative terms.

"The board believes that the commercial relationship between Next and Otto-Versand will have important continuing benefits for Next, which Sears, as a direct competitor of Next, would be unlikely to provide over the long term. The board also considers that the position of the staff of Grattan will be more secure in the event that Otto-Versand acquires Grattan," the document says.

If there are no further bids for Grattan, and an increased offer from Otto to match or exceed the Sears offer cannot be ruled out, shareholders will have to chose between the two offers. There is an extraordinary general meeting on Wednesday to approve the Otto offer and proxy votes have to be in by noon on Monday.

Geoffrey Maitland Smith, chairman of Sears, which owns Freemans, the mail order company, said he would be writing again to Next shareholders with news of Sears' increased offer.

"Our offer is worth £4 million more to Next than Otto's and Next has told its shareholders about the difficult financial position it is in and the estimated level of losses. We are strongly urging Next shareholders to vote against the Otto resolution on March 13.

"The £155 million offer from Sears lapses if the resolution to approve Otto's offer is voted through but our original £150 million offer stays open until March 28," he said.

Next says in its circular that the Otto offer is conditional on clearance by the European Commission. If this condition is not met before March 26 the conditional agreement from Otto will be rescinded, which would allow Next to accept the £150 million offer from Sears.

Sears has been in touch with Next's institutional shareholders, many of whom also hold Sears' shares. Excluding Otto, the top 50 per cent of Next's shareholders are believed to have roughly four times as much invested in Sears as they have in Next.

They may be keen to see Grattan fall to Sears to strengthen Sears' position in the mail order market.

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'Efficient' Nestlé cleared

THE monopolies commission yesterday cleared Nestlé of abusing its dominance of the instant coffee market (Ross Tieman writes). A nine-month study, published by Peter Lilley, the trade secretary, concluded that Nestlé's high profitability reflected its greater efficiency and success at meeting consumer tastes.

The enquiry found that competition to supply the £580 million of instant coffee bought by Britons during 1989 was effective. There was a wide degree of choice, with more than 200 brands on offer.

Stirring up competition, page 28

THE POUND

US dollar
1.8735 (-0.0135)
German mark
2.9212 (+0.0009)
Exchange index
93.6 (-0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1958.7 (+8.1)
FT-SE 100
2455.0 (+17.3)
New York Dow Jones
2982.92 (+19.55)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
26607.52 (+209.56)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Unidare	250p (+35p)
MAM	592½p (+18p)
Henderson Admin	677½p (+10p)
Ladbroke	274p (+10½p)
Northern Foods	416p (+10p)
Bowater	586p (+6p)
Cannon Street Inv	110p (+10p)
A Cohen	677½p (+23p)
De La Rue	379p (+11p)
Brent Walker	69p (+9p)
Carlton Comm	448½p (+10p)
Yorkshire TV	296½p (+15p)
Gen Accident	579½p (+10p)
Sun Alliance	379½p (+9p)
Brit Aerospace	660p (+15p)
FALLS:	
Quicks Group	55p (-22p)
BTR	382 (-12p)
Booker	476p (-8p)
Teltos	102p (-10p)
VSEL	402p (-10p)

Closing Prices ..... Page 34

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 13%
3-month interbank 12½-12 7/16%
3-month eligible bills 11⅞-11 13/16%
US Prime Rate 9%
Federal Funds
3-month Treasury Bills
30-year bonds

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: $1.8735	£: $
£: DM2.9212	$: DM
£: SwFr2.5484	$: SwFr
£: FFr9.8530	$: FFr
£: Yen254.80	$: Yen
£: Index93.6	$: Index82.8
ECU £0.701975	SDR £0.743092
£: ECU1.424552	£: SDR1.345728

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM $367.50 pm-$368.50
close $369.00-369.50 (£197.00-197.50)
New York:
Comex $

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Apr) ..... $18.90 bbl ($18.95)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 130.2 January (1985=100)

* Denotes latest trading price

Yamani predicts oil price could plunge to $12

Yamani: all depends on Iraq

By COLIN CAMPBELL

SHEIKH Ahmed Zaki Yamani, the former Saudi Arabian oil minister, has forecast that world crude oil prices could plunge to $12 a barrel from their present levels of almost $20.

The sheikh, speaking before next week's meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries in Geneva, said crude oil prices depended on how quickly Iraq's production was resumed and on how soon Kuwait's damaged oilfields could be repaired.

In their first meeting, scheduled for Monday, since the end of the Gulf war, Opec ministers are likely to decide on new production quotas. Opec's ceiling, set last July at 22.5 million barrels of oil a day, was suspended when Iraq invaded Kuwait in August.

Opec's crude oil output was estimated at 22.85 million barrels a day in February.

"A lot depends on the moment Iraq once again becomes an exporter and on the level of its production," Sheikh Yamani told *Le Figaro*, the French newspaper. "But the moment Iraq starts producing and exporting, prices will collapse."

When asked by how much prices could fall, Mr Yamani said: "God only knows, perhaps they could drop to $12 a barrel." Iraq is expected to resume exports by June at the latest.

In Britain yesterday, Shell UK Oil followed Esso in raising the price of four-star petrol over the £2 a gallon level again, in a move that will lead to an 0.1 percentage point change in the rate of inflation.

Shell's four-star petrol rises by 4.7p (1.04p a litre) to 204.1p a gallon (44.9p a litre), while the wholesale price of diesel falls by 4.7p a gallon to 183.7p a gallon (40.4p a litre).

BP said it had no immediate plans to change its prices, but would be closely monitoring market developments as well as Monday's Opec meeting. Shell last changed its petrol prices on January 23 when the price of four-star petrol was reduced by 6.7p a gallon.

Shell justified its latest price changes by saying there had been a rise in the international price of petrol since America increased its petrol buying on world markets to replace domestic petrol stocks.

World diesel prices, by contrast, had fallen because of seasonal influences and the ending of the Gulf war.

The world price of petrol was $258.50 a tonne yesterday, compared with $252.50 a tonne at the beginning of the week and $225 a tonne on February 26.

Westbury shares fall on warning

SHARES in Westbury, the Cheltenham housebuilder, dropped 15p to 185p as the company gave warning that profits for the year to end-February had been seriously affected by adverse trading conditions.

Although the company sold 2,500 homes during the year – almost 300 more than in 1989 – prices and margins have fallen. In the first six months, pre-tax profits fell from £18.5 million to £5.1 million. Full-year profits are not expected to be materially above the half-year figure.

Westbury also announced the results of an independent valuation of its land bank. The review suggested the land bank should be written down by £12.75 million, a reduction of about 10 per cent on the book value.

Alliance assets grow 35.8%

The Alliance & Leicester has become Britain's third largest building society after increasing its total assets 35.8 per cent during 1990 to £18.4 billion.

Halfway through last year the building society paid £112 million for Girobank, the Post Office's banking subsidiary. In the last six months of 1990, Girobank contributed £13.5 million towards the society's pre-tax of £198.6 million, 18.6 per cent higher than in 1989.

Stoddard buys

Stoddard Sekers International, the carpet and fabric manufacturer, is buying Louis De Poortere for £950,000 in shares. LDP, a Warwick manufacturer of Axminster carpets, is the British subsidiary of ETS Louis De Poortere, the private Belgian company. LDP had a net attributable loss of £396,000 in the year to end-November, with estimated net assets of £2.33 million at end-February.

Braime dips

TF & JH Braime (Holdings), the maker of seamless drawn presswork and distributor of lift components, dipped from £447,000 pre-tax to £367,000 in the year to end-December, on turnover of £5.57 million (£4.91 million). Earnings per share were 15.61p (20.14p). There is a final dividend of 5.5p, making an improved total of 7.25p (7.5p) for the year.

Bingo clubs sold

Rank Organisation, which bought Mecca for £500 million last year, has sold eight social and bingo clubs to Jasmine, a private company formed by Warren Tuddenham, the former Pleasurama director, for an undisclosed sum. Rank has agreed to sell ten bingo clubs to avoid a monopolies commission reference.

IFS director

The Institute for Fiscal Studies has appointed Andrew Dilnot director to replace Bill Robinson, who moved to the Treasury as special adviser to the Chancellor. Mr Dilnot was deputy director.

Jobless in US is at highest for four years

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

THE American unemployment rate rose to its highest level in four years last month as 185,000 workers outside the farming sector lost their jobs.

In a report that suggested the economy was still being battered by recession in February, the labour department said the jobless rate reached 6.5 per cent, against 6.2 per cent a month earlier and 5.3 per cent last summer.

The number of job losses was larger than expected by many analysts, although the dollar quickly shrugged off early losses amid the view that it was not large enough to prompt the Federal Reserve to ease credit.

Despite these figures, many economists share the view of Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve chairman, that the swift end to the Gulf war should help the economy soon by boosting consumer spending.

Most of the payroll cuts came in the manufacturing industry, where 127,000 people lost their jobs last month and about 1 million have been made redundant over the past two years. American car makers have suffered big losses.

The service sector was also hard hit because of the weakness in consumer confidence that has damaged the economy since last summer.

Retailers laid off 69,000 staff last month, while 11 out of 20 of the largest retailers reported that sales dropped or showed negligible gains.

According to the labour department, whose jobless statistics provide the first gauge of America's economic health each month, payrolls around the country have shrunk by 1.6 million over the past eight months – roughly one in 150 people.

Mr Greenspan gave warning this week that the worst is yet to come, even though, on balance, the recession should end soon. He cited a "credit crunch" as one of the central bank's biggest concerns.

The Fed reported on Thursday that consumer credit fell at a 4 per cent annual rate in January, marking the second monthly decline in a row.

Shares move ahead on hopes of rate cut

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

SHARE prices grew strongly amid growing market expectations of further cuts in interest rates in the near future, despite Bank of England signals that it wanted no change.

The FT-SE 100 index looked about to set a record at one point, but fell back as Wall Street failed to rise after worse-than-expected American jobless data. The index ended at 2,455.0, up 17.3 points and comparing with 2,386.9 last Friday.

In the money market, sterling interbank rates held steady with operators remaining optimistic about an early base rate move, despite the authorities' signals that rates should stay where they are.

The Bank of England lent £1.1 billion to the discount houses at 13 per cent for a fortnight, but dealers were in a mood to ignore the message. The three-month interbank rate finished at 12½-⅜ unchanged from Thursday.

● Latest official figures on construction output confirmed the industry's slide. Provisional data showed total final quarter output last year was 2 per cent lower than the third quarter and 2 per cent down on the fourth quarter of 1989.

Market report, page 26

American blow for WTA

Second setback this year: Stenham, the Wiggins Teape Appleton chairman

PLANS by Wiggins Teape Appleton, where Anthony Stenham is chairman, to buy a paper mill in the state of Washington have been blocked by the Federal Trade Commission under American anti-trust laws.

The American authority is seeking an injunction to prevent the $72 million purchase, but both Appleton Papers, WTA's American subsidiary, and the vendor, Boise Cascade Corporation, plan to fight it in the courts. The agreement, signed last year, involved about $60 million for the physical assets and $12 million for the finished goods' inventory.

The FTC's decision is the second blow for WTA this year. In January, the £126 million sale of its 43 per cent stake in Soporcel, a Portuguese pulp and paper mill, to Stora Kopperbergs, a Swedish group, fell through after objections from Lisbon. The proceeds from this were expected to finance the purchase of the paper mill. WTA and Boise Cascade expect the disagreement with the FTC to be settled "relatively soon".

Microvitec makes bid approach to Logitek

By PHILIP PANGALOS

LOGITEK, the computer services group, has received an unsolicited bid approach from a fellow computer group. The shares reacted with a 2p advance to 28p, having touched 34p.

Logitek said the approach "may or may not lead to an offer being made" for the whole of the company and shareholders would be kept informed of developments.

Microvitec, the USM computer peripherals group that recently picked up an 8.4 per cent stake in Logitek, later confirmed it had approached the Logitek board with a proposal that might lead to an all-shares offer. At current market prices it would be worth about 34p for each Logitek share.

Any offer would be subject to "certain pre-conditions" relating to its target's financial position.

Microvitec, which is one of the largest European producers of colour monitor screens, recently announced a pre-tax deficit of £2.42 million for 1990, although losses were substantially reduced during the second half of 1990 and the company said it had traded profitably in the fourth quarter.

BTG finance director goes

BUSINESS Technology Group, the office equipment distributor in which Tony Berry has a 14 per cent stake and a board seat, has lost its finance director after he had been just three months in the job.

A statement said that David Barker, a former director of corporate financial planning at Saatchi & Saatchi, "is no longer carrying out the functions of group finance director," and added that "it is anticipated that he will shortly cease to be connected with the group".

A spokesman for the company said: "He has plainly not settled in. He has not seen eye to eye with the rest of the board."

Paul Hollebone, the company secretary and group finance controller, will assume the role of finance director until a new appointment is made.

No pick-up in car sales, dealers say

By JONATHAN PRYNN

THE depressed new car market showed no signs of picking up in the first two months of the year, according to two medium-sized regional motor dealers.

Perry Group, which holds 28 dealer franchises in the North, Midlands and South-east, announced results for the year to end December showing a 16 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to £4.2 million.

New car sales for the year were down 6.3 per cent at 23,278, but pressure on margins reduced profits by 78 per cent to £597,000.

Richard Allan, the chairman, said January and February had shown no trading improvement and the company was budgeting for further first-half sales falls. But he expected the impact of interest rate cuts to feed through in the second half in time for peak sales in August.

The profits for 1990 included £1 million from property sales, leaving second half trading profits at £800,000. Gearing fell to 24 per cent from 37 per cent at the end of 1989. The maintained final dividend of 6.25p makes an unchanged 9p for the year.

Quicks Group, the Manchester motor dealer, saw its shares fall 18p to 55p after a profits warning. The group also said that "the economic climate and market conditions remained tough during January and February."

It gave a warning that it had traded at a loss after bad debt provisions in the second half of last year.

However, Quicks said that management accounts indicated that it had been trading at a profit in January and February. Last September Quicks reported a 17 per cent decline in pre-tax profits to £1.6 million for the six months to end June 1990.

Tempus, page 27

Racal Telecom acts over deregulation

By OUR CITY STAFF

RACAL Telecom, which operates the Vodafone network, is to apply for further licences to develop its telephone businesses. This follows the government's policy document on de-regulation of the industry this week.

Gerry Wheatt, the chief executive, said that he welcomed the government proposals, many of which would be cost effective for Racal Telecom's planned pan-European digital cellphone network and the next generation of micro-cellular services.

Tempus, page 27

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

	Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000
Abbey Nat	5,024	Cadbury	1,333	L&G	1,246	Royal Bnk	1,708
Alld-Lyons	2,280	CU	1,179	Lloyds	1,978	Royal Ins	3,732
Anglian	1,254	Courtaulds	374	Lonrho	1,383	Sainsbury	2,697
ASDA	3,707	Dalgety	374	Lucas	2,625	Scot & N	1,665
AB Foods	804	Enterprise	1,301	M&S	5,373	Sears	1,725
Argyll	4,300	Eurotunnel	849	Maxwell Cm	508	Severn Trnt	2,055
BAA	3,976	Fisons	4,160	MEPC	341	Shell	7,413
BET	4,279	Gen Acc	1,282	Midland	12,164	Smith & N	6,642
BTR	4,146	GEC	10,280	Nat West	10,280	SK Beech	3,758
BAT	3,105	Glaxo	3,129	N W Water	3,221	Sun Allnce	1,310
Barclays	9,057	Grand Met	5,653	P&O	499	Tarmac	1,674
Bass	1,021	GUS 'A'	479	Pearson	586	Tate Lyle	1,982
BOC	701	GRE	3,325	Pilkington	1,874	TSB	3,329
Bk Scotlnd	1,944	GKN	937	Prudential	6,470	Tesco	4,890
Blue Circle	1,647	Guinness	4,373	Racal	5,143	Thames Wtr	1,737
BOC	801	Hanson 'A'	831	Rk Hovis	916	Thorn EMI	1,128
Boots	1,857	Harrison	6,818	Rank	1,415	Trafalgar	1,949
Br Aero	2,104	H & C	1,891	R&C	161	TNT	3,661
Br Airways	2,376	Hawker	572	Redland	798	Ultramar	4,021
Br Gas	9,800	Hillsdown	3,482	Reed	598	Unilever	1,254
Br Petrol	12,238	ICI	2,236	Reuters	4,500	United Bis	646
Br Steel	10,319	Kingfisher	2,889	RMC Gp	583	Wellcome	841
Br Telecm	14,587	Lasmo	1,407	RTZ	2,489	Whitbrd	607
Burmah Cst	546	Ladbroke	7,820	R-Royce	18,830	Wgn Teape	1,164
C&W	2,250	Land Sec	1,095	Rosson 'B'	629	Willis Cor	3,609

MAJOR INDICES

New York:
Dow Jones ..... 2982.92 (+19.55)*
S&P Composite ..... 378.04 (+2.13)*
Tokyo:
Nikkei Average .. 26607.52 (+209.56)
Hong Kong:
Hang Seng ..... 3853.19 (-5.05)
FT-SE Euro 100 ..... 1097.05 (+9.06)
Amsterdam:
CBS Tendency ..... 93.0 (+0.1)
Sydney: AO ..... 1415.2 (+3.7)
Frankfurt: DAX ..... 1602.29 (+21.83)
Brussels:
General ..... 5822.67 (+47.62)
Paris: CAC ..... 497.78 (+5.11)
Zurich: SKA Gen ..... 560.3 (+4.5)
London:
FT – A All-Share ..... 1192.12 (+8.33)
FT – "500" ..... 1309.35 (+8.14)
FT. Gold Mines ..... 143.2 (-0.2)
FT. Fixed interest ..... 93.32 (-0.01)
FT. Govt Secs ..... 85.15 (+0.02)
Bargains 52221
SEAQ Volume 736.2m
USM (Datastream) ..... 128.57 (+1.06)

*Denotes latest trading price

RECENT ISSUES

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Eldos (100p)	63
Etonbrook	67
Europe Energy	14
Faber Prest (175p)	129
Foreign & Col	49½ +½
Highcroft Inv	160
Invergordon (135p)	158 +1
Lavercrest (108p)	64
MMEC	3½
MMI (20p)	23½
Malaysia Capital	25½
Midland Radio	95
Pelican Gp (50p)	24
Protean Intl (84p)	88
Seton Healthcare	165 -1
Smaller IT	79 +2
Stand Platform (225p)	168
Tr Euro Gwth (100p)	99 +4
Trio Inv Tst	44
Utd Uniform	88
Unicham (100p)	148 -1
Wig Tpe App	228

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Reluctant hero keeps emotions in check

BUSINESS PROFILE
By Gillian Bowditch

Sir Christopher Hogg

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Captain of industry: Sir Christopher, chairman of Courtaulds, in his office, with a tapestry depicting the view from his Welsh cottage

Sir Christopher Hogg is the closest thing the cynical world of business has to a hero. Intimidatingly intelligent, scrupulously fair-minded, logical in the extreme, he has an unbroken record of achievement. Some of his friends secretly suspect he may be a visitor from the planet Vulcan. Cut him and he does not bleed.

Sir Christopher, chairman of Courtaulds and non-executive chairman of Reuters, is universally respected. And not only for the changes he has wrought at Courtaulds, the industrial group that demerged its textile and chemical divisions a year ago and which, prior to his chairmanship, was one of the sickest businesses in Britain. Under him, it became a textbook success story.

Those who know Sir Christopher well talk in an almost reverential fashion about his single-mindedness, his fairness and his loyalty. Lord Kearton, the industrialist who brought him into Courtaulds and who put him on to the board at the age of 37, says he is one of the most remarkable men he has ever met.

"Chris did a number of jobs when he joined Courtaulds and he did them all with brilliance. He has remarkable brainpower. He is probably the most cerebral chairman in the whole of British industry," he says.

The words that come to mind when Sir David Scholey, chairman of SG Warburg, the merchant bank, thinks of Sir Christopher are "intelligence, integrity and thoroughness".

He adds: "He is a challenging man, but one who brings out the best in people. The world would be a better place if there were more men like him."

Glen Renfrew, the outgoing chief executive of Reuters, says the head of Courtaulds is "an extremely rare blend of affability and firmness".

Sir Christopher, aged 54, has few enemies, which is surprising given his meteoric rise and the fact that under his rule Courtaulds' workforce has halved. At one time he held the record for having fired more people than any other company, with the exception of British Steel and British Leyland.

But while there are many who will attest to his logic, there are few who have seen him express any emotion. He describes himself as "a cold fish", and those who know him describe him as having nerves of steel. He is controlled to an almost unnatural extent. Privately, they question whether his clinical exterior masks any insecurities.

"I'm just too damn serious, that's my problem," says Sir Christopher. "That's the key to the whole thing. I look at myself now and I think 'my God you're serious', which is not only boring for everyone else, it is boring for me too."

The urge to see him as a stereotype is difficult to resist. Educated at Marlborough College and Trinity College, Oxford, where he attained a fist class honours degree in English, he went on to Harvard University in America and gained an MBA with high distinction.

He has a wife who was an Oxford don and two daughters who are described by his friends as "bright, beautiful and talented".

From an early age Sir Christopher was marked out for high office: the automatic choice as the man most likely to succeed: the perfect product of the establishment.

But beneath the controlled exterior it is possible to ascertain a degree of anguish. He argues with himself out loud, rationalising his emotions. Ask what he feels about a subject and he gives an eloquent, thought-out response. Ask for a gut reaction and there is silence.

Sir Christopher describes his childhood as fortunate, but he was not a happy, carefree boy. He was born into a middle class family, the second child of four. His father, Anthony Hogg, ran the family business: Samuel French, a theatrical publisher. Apart from his grandmother, he was the only member of his family to go to university.

He remains close to both his parents. "They delegated the management of my life to me from a young age," he says. "They provided a supportive umbrella under which I could do things, especially when I was young. I would say about them now what I hope some of Courtaulds' subsidiary managers would say about the Courtaulds parent."

He was sent to boarding school at the age of seven-and-a-half and went on to Marlborough, somewhat predictably becoming headboy. "I was a boringly good schoolboy. I worked according to the system and I did most of the things of which the system approved.

> *'I'm just too damn serious, I look at myself and I think "my God you're serious" which is not only boring for everyone else, it's boring for me too'*

"If you are an instinctively law-abiding little boy, as I was, you just become shaped by the institution. You soak up its values. I can recognise that I'm the creature of my schooling and I can recognise there are some values of those schools that were out of keeping with many of the things I've had to spend my life thinking about or doing."

Despite sounding angry at his easy acceptance of his early life, he has never really rebelled. "I wouldn't have seen the point. I haven't got the Gorbals instinct."

Sir Christopher began to suspect the world was not quite as he had been led to believe after joining the army at the age of 20. His national service was dangerous and included parachuting into Port Said during the Suez crisis.

"I spent a lot of that time being very frightened, but I just got through it. I've spent my whole life doing things that are put in front of me. I was very much affected by it. Once you've seen how thin the veneer of civilisation actually is, you never forget it.

"If your government puts a weapon in your hands and tells you to get on and kill, you do so, especially if it's a question of your own life or someone else's. You do so with a good deal of primitive abandon."

To hear him say that the army taught him he was not a good leader comes as a surprise. This, after all, is the man who is the headhunters' first port of call for any vacant top office. "I might be able to lead in a public school context but I wasn't very good as a platoon commander leading different kinds of men under different sorts of circumstances. That was one of the most valuable things the army taught me. I probably thought I could do almost anything. The army taught me that I certainly couldn't."

After six months in Canada he went to Oxford, where he developed some skill with a punt and where, in his final year, he met his wife, Anne. She was studying Spanish and French and was a friend of his flatmate.

By the time he had finished at Oxford Sir Christopher knew he wanted to go into industry, an unfashionable ambition for an English graduate.

Sir Christopher won a Harkness Fellowship to Harvard. He describes this award as the single biggest piece of good fortune in his working life. At Harvard he felt he was firing on all cylinders and going in a sensible direction. He was able to shake off the strait-jacket of his English institutional life, and for the first time he was not automatically top of the class. He started to enjoy life.

After a year teaching at IMEDE, a business school in Lausanne, Switzerland, he joined the merchant bank that was the predecessor to Hill Samuel, where he learnt not to be frightened by large sums of money. "It taught me about the City and the view they have in the City that they are at the centre of the earth. I sympathise with that. They're not right but I understand it."

On secondment from Hill Samuel, Sir Christopher joined the Industrial Reorganisation Corporation, a body set up by the then Labour government. It was there he met Frank, now Lord Kearton, who became his mentor and, as chairman of Courtaulds, offered him a job.

Courtaulds was a large company in a sick industry and Sir Christopher admits to being frustrated by what he perceived as the obvious difficulties. "I could see we were in an enormous mess. I thought the situation was more serious than my colleagues, but I don't want to pretend that I was a voice in the wilderness because I wasn't." His colleagues made him chief executive in 1979 and chairman by the end of that year.

It was an appalling time for the group. Between 1980 and 1984, 50,000 employees, half the workforce, lost their jobs. Today, Courtaulds is worth £1.43 billion on the stock market, and the textile company is valued at £285 million.

Lord Kearton says that despite Sir Christopher's emotionally reticent facade, he is not without compassion. "He's not a back-slapping, arm-squeezing sort of chap but the job cuts affected him profoundly." At that stage, Sir Christopher did not enjoy going to work for weeks at a time. "It's not much fun being part of an ailing company.

Personal doubt was not far away. "If ever I was promoted out of my depth it was probably in this present job. I have thought, 'what the hell am I doing this for and can I ever make any real progress?' I don't get these sorts of moments now, but in the early days what I ought to do next was so unclear. That's always the real problem. Any fool can see where you should be in five years' time. It's getting there that's the problem; the next step."

Sir Christopher describes himself as a loner who is not very good at the fun side of life. Friends find him difficult to get close to. "I like the security of groups, the dynamics of groups and what groups can achieve, but I think I'm something of a loner," he says. His outside interests tend to be solitary pursuits, such as skiing, hill walking and reading. To relax he works flat out at something else.

He admits to being both ambitious and competitive, although not to the extent of stepping over other people's corpses. "I may be fooling myself on that," he says. But dead bodies have not exactly littered his path. Colleagues are most protective.

The time may soon arrive for a move after ten years as chairman of Courtaulds. Recently, he has been mooted as a possible successor to Lord Weinstock at GEC. A senior role in education is also a possibility.

There is a degree of perversity in his character. He takes pleasure not only in the success of the demerger of Courtaulds Textiles from Courtaulds but also in the fact that the endeavour went against the grain. Chairmen are expected to expand, not contract the business. His strengths are legion and often listed. Vulnerabilities are less obvious. "I don't think in terms of weaknesses but I certainly allow for them in terms of the people I have around me."

Sir Christopher's office is unprepossessing, with the name Chris Hogg on the door and no reference to his position. The décor is sparse but features a tapestry depicting the view from his cottage in the Upper Wye Valley, Wales.

He goes out of his way not to intimidate those around him, right down to the woollen tank tops he wears, but people do find him daunting. And they put him on an elevated moral plain.

He is an uneasy hero. "People want to believe in heroes," he says. "If people knew what a shambles the world was in and how imperfect the people who run it are, there would be more suicides than there are now. People want to believe that those who run their organisations are good and infallible, but they're ruddy well not. I'm under no illusions about that."

Anglia aborts power station

By Ross Tieman
Industrial Correspondent

ANGLIA Energy has abandoned plans to build a 380-megawatt power station at Great Yarmouth after last week's announcement by British Gas of a 35 per cent rise in gas prices for bulk users.

Ranger Oil UK, head of the the Anglia Energy consortium, said the rise in gas prices made the project uneconomic.

The decision confirms fears that a shortfall in the supply of gas until 1995 will hamper the development of competition in the power generation market, one of the main aims of the government's electricity privatisation programme.

Ranger and its partners, PowerGen, Amerada Hess, Conoco and Elf Oil, had planned to obtain fuel from British Gas and the Anglia gas field off the Norfolk coast.

The Anglia field, being developed by Ranger, Amerada Hess, Conoco Developments and Elf UK, contains 235 million cubic feet of reserves. Phil Irwin, a Ranger director, said: "We are disappointed that the project is not going ahead, but it gives us opportunities on the field side."

Ranger believes the shortfall of supplies from the Britain's continental shelf will enable it to realise higher prices for its gas. From the producer's point of view, Mr Irwin said that the outlook for gas prices was "substantially better than it was six months or a year ago".

Anglia Energy's planned power station, which would have used highly efficient combined-cycle gas-fired technology, was scheduled to have begun generating at the end of 1993. Mr Irwin said Anglia had held talks with British Gas after receiving seven days' warning of last week's price rise. However, it was unable to complete contracts in time.

Three other power projects, signed contracts with British Gas before the price rise. Ofgas, the regulatory body, issued enforcement notices requiring British Gas to complete deals with two more, but British Gas has refused to do so.

Talks over more than 60 power station projects had been held with British Gas. Little more than a dozen are likely to proceed.

Arlington plunges to £19m loss

By Matthew Bond

THE commercial property slump has resulted in Arlington Securities reporting a pre-tax loss of £19 million for the year to end-December. In 1989, the company made pre-tax profits of £30.5 million.

Arlington has been a wholly owned subsidiary of British Aerospace since July 1989, when BAe took it over in an agreed deal, valuing it at £278 million. The company still reports its results independently because of an outstanding preference share issue.

BAe bought Arlington primarily to exploit the property development opportunities from BAe's surplus properties, and from its acquisitions of Rover and Royal Ordnance. But the company's management retains an independent style.

Last December, Arlington announced it was to participate in a property "vulture" fund, a vehicle set up to exploit the slump in property prices. Arlington's founder partners are Electra Kingsway and General Electric Investment of America. Other institutions will be invited to subscribe for up to £230 million of equity in the fund, expected to be officially launched next week.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Aitch Holdings dives to £782,000 loss

AITCH Holdings, the diversified fashion group, has dived into the red after exceptional losses and higher interest costs. The company made a pre-tax loss of £782,000 in the year to end-November, against a profit of £92,000 last time. Turnover climbed from £40.1 million to £43.7 million. There is a 1.4p loss per share and again no dividend.

There were exceptional costs of £818,000 from the reorganisation of Ben Sherman, the shirts business acquired when Aitch Group reversed into the old Munton Group in 1989. The shares were unchanged at 8½p.

Doeflex edges to £1.28m

DOEFLEX, the plastic materials maker, lifted pre-tax profits from £1.26 million to £1.28 million in the year to end-December. Turnover was static at £18.1 million. Earnings per share edged up from 10.18p to 10.21p. The final dividend is held at 2.7p, making an unchanged total of 4.02p for the year.

Cray disposal reaps £2.08m

CRAY Electronics Holdings, the electronic equipment manufacturer, is selling its loss-making Lloyd Instruments subsidiary to Technitrol, an American instrumentation company, for £2.08 million. The total consideration includes £230,000 to write off Lloyd Instruments' bank overdraft.

Crédit Suisse slides

CRÉDIT Suisse, the Swiss bank, suffered a 31.2 per cent decline in income in 1990 because of a downturn in securities trading. Consolidated net profits fell to SwFr539 million (£212 million) last year, against SwFr783 million.

The bank — one of five to enjoy a universal triple-A credit rating — also cut its dividends from SwFr115 to SwFr100 for bearer shares, and from SwFr23 to SwFr20 for registered shares. Bearer shares in CS Holdings, the parent company, fell in Zurich to SwFr1,760, down from SwFr1,795.

Suspension at Dunton before issue

By Colin Campbell

SHARES in Dunton Group were temporarily suspended at 9¼p yesterday ahead of reorganisation proposals.

Dunton, the brickmaker and property group, plans to issue 27.3 million shares to buy Holywell, the commercial property investment company, for £1.64 million.

The share allotment gives Holywell's vendors a 57.2 per cent stake in Dunton, though the takeover panel has waived the obligation to make a general offer to all Dunton shareholders.

The acquisition will bring Dunton 11 commercial properties valued at £1.95 million, strengthening the company's asset backing and allowing continued support by its commercial bankers.

Dunton reports a £2.77 million pre-tax loss for the six months ended November compared with a previous £366,000 interim profit. Current trading remains difficult. The interim dividend has been passed (against 0.48p a share paid previously).

Dunton says the company's future depends entirely on the acquisition of Holywell.

Trading in Dunton shares is expected to resume on Monday.

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LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Jul	Oct	Puts Apr	Jul	Oct
Alld Lyons (*539)	460	90	95	105	2	5½	8
	500	55	61	73	5	14	18
	550	19	31	45	21	35	39
ASDA	120	21	27	28	1	3	5
(*138)	130	13	20	21	3	5½	8
	140	7	13	15	7	10	12½
Bass (*1065)	1050	57	85	118	21	42	50
	1100	31	62	90	47	68	82
	1150	14	–	–	88	–	–
Boots (*357)	300	64	69	73	1	3½	5
	330	36	43	51	3	10	12
	360	14	22	32	12	21	23
Br Airways (*171)	140	34	35	39	1½	4	6
	160	17	21	25	4½	11	13
	180	6½	11	16	14	21	23
BP (*343)	300	51	55	60	1½	4½	7½
	330	24	32	40	6	11	14
	360	6½	16½	24	20	25	29
Br Steel (*140)	130	15	18	19	2½	5½	6½
	140	7½	12	13	5½	10	10½
	160	2	4½	6	21	23	25
C & W (*532)	460	88	100	110	2½	8	12
	500	52	65	80	8	19	22
	550	19	36	52	26	42	45
CU (*535)	460	66	81	87	2	7	12
	500	34	51	60	10	16	25
	550	8	25	35	38	45	48
Courtauld (*387)	330	62	66	75	1½	4	6½
	360	34	41	53	4½	11	14
	390	14	23	35	15	24	26
GKN (*576)	550	45	55	57	3	10	15
	360	18	27	40	11	21	25
	390	7	20	27	32	35	43
Grand Met. (*248)	650	111	132	142	2½	8	15
	700	65	89	107	8	20	25
	750	32	58	79	25	38	45
ICI (*1075)	1000	67	119	134	17	29	43
	1050	43	87	105	35	46	64
	1100	24	61	80	62	75	89
Kingfisher (*438)	390	60	66	75	1½	9	12
	420	35	46	54	8	17	21
	460	13	24	34	27	38	42
Ladbroke (*274)	240	41	45	51	3	7½	11
	260	24	32	40	7	15	20
	280	11½	19	29	16	25	28
Land Sec (*546)	500	60	67	75	3	7	11
	550	28	30	45	16	26	32
	600	5	12	23	55	62	65
M & S (*246)	220	33	36	43	1½	4½	6
	240	16	21	30	5½	12	13
	260	5½	12	19	16	21	23
Sainsbury (*334)	300	41	48	58	1½	5	7
	330	18	28	38	7	14	16
	360	5	13	22	28	32	33
Shell (*484)	420	82	93	97	2	4	7
	460	40	60	67	6	10	14
	500	16	34	40	20	27	32
Sold Beech (*749)	650	105	123	142	2½	8	14
	700	60	84	105	9	20	27
	750	27	52	73	28	40	47
Storehse (*118)	110	13	16	19	4	7	8
	120	6½	10	14	8	12	13
	130	3	7	–	15	19	–
Trafalgar (*256)	220	50	52	62	3	9	12
	240	32	38	50	6	16	20
	260	20	28	40	14	23	30
Ultramar (*344)	300	45	57	63	3	7	8
	330	20	35	43	11	15	18
	360	7	18	28	30	33	33
Unilever (*736)	600	143	143	–	2	4	–
	650	92	102	122	5	10	13
	700	46	66	85	13	21	25
	750	15	37	57	37	43	47
Utd Bisc (*371)	330	47	53	62	2	5	8
	360	22	32	42	8	13	18
	390	5	15	24	27	30	33
	Series	May	Aug	Nov	May	Aug	Nov
BAA (*415)	390	45	56	68	7	14	17
	420	28	37	50	18	27	29
	460	11	–	–	40	–	–
BAT Ind (*708)	550	170	172	–	2	4	–
	600	120	125	133	4	11	15
	650	77	83	103	11	26	27
	700	40	53	72	27	45	45
BTR (*381)	360	35	61	55	9	14	19
	390	19	31	36	22	27	32
	420	8	19	25	43	47	52
Br Aero (*660)	550	112	127	140	7	11	16
	600	70	90	107	16	23	28
	650	39	56	72	36	45	52
Br Telecm (*332)	280	63	67	70	1	3½	4½
	300	44	50	54	2½	7½	9
	330	22	29	35	10½	17	19
Cadbury (*378)	330	51	62	69	3	5½	7
	360	27	42	49	10	14	17
	390	11	24	35	27	28	32
Guinness (*348)	750	109	134	150	7	14	18
	800	70	95	114	18	28	32
	850	40	66	85	38	47	54
GEC (*215)	180	43	44	46	1	2½	4
	200	25	27	32	3	7	8½
	220	12	14	20	10	16	15
Hanson (*225)	200	33	37	43	2	4	5
	220	17½	23	29½	6	9½	11
	240	7½	13	19	17	20	21½
LASMO (*391)	330	72	83	90	3	7	9
	360	46	59	67	9	12	17
	390	26	40	50	20	25	26
P & O (*599)	500	107	108	–	5	8	–
	550	60	70	77	15	21	28
	600	25	40	48	38	42	50
Pilkington (*188)	160	36	39	41	2½	6	7½
	180	22	23	29	7	12	15
	200	12	13	19	16	23	26

March 8, 1991 Total: 30743 Calls 20048 Puts 10695 FT-SE: Calls 3563 Puts 1617

	Series	Calls May	Aug	Nov	Puts May	Aug	Nov
Prudential (*227)	200	32	36	39	2½	5	7
	220	14	22	26	9	12	15
	240	6	13	17	22	23	27
Racal (*208)	180	38	41	47	3½	5½	7
	200	23	27	33	9	11	14
	220	11	17	24	20	21	22
	240	4½	–	–	34	–	–
RTZ (*535)	420	122	129	–	2½	4	–
	460	82	92	102	7	10	13
	500	45	63	73	16	23	23
	550	19	35	46	45	47	50
Scot New (*400)	330	82	88	–	2	4½	–
	360	55	63	67	4½	9	12
	390	32	40	48	13	19	22
	420	16	24	34	28	35	40
Tesco (*258)	214	49	54	–	2	4	–
	233	30	37	–	4½	6	–
	253	15	24	–	10	12	–
Thames W. (*305)	280	37	41	44	5	10	12
	300	22	27	31	10	18	20
	330	8	12	17	26	34	37
Lucas (*169)	140	30	37	39	3	5	7
	160	16	22	25	8	12	14
	180	6	10	17	20	22	25
	Series	Apr	Jul	Oct	Apr	Jul	Oct
Pizzas (*467)	380	90	100	112	1	3½	5½
	420	62	73	86	2½	8	11
	460	26	45	58	13	18	22
	Series	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Jun	Sep
Abbey Nat. (*272)	220	51	55	59	1	2	3
	240	31	37	44	1	4	6½
	260	12	23	29	4	9	13
Amstrad (*72)	60	13	15	19	1	3½	5
	70	4	5½	12	3½	5	6½
	80	1	4	8	9	11	12
Barclys (*463)	390	69	81	87	2	6	12
	420	40	57	67	3	11	20
	460	18	26	39	16	27	33
Blue Circ (*264)	240	31	35	42	1½	6½	13
	260	14	23	31	5½	17	22
	280	5	14	21	17	28	32
Br Gas (*252)	220	36	44	47	1	2	4½
	240	17	27	31	1½	5½	10
	260	4½	15	18	9½	13	19
Dixons (*179)	160	22	32	32	1	4½	7
	180	7	17	21	6	11	16
	200	1½	8	11	22	25	28
Glaxo (*997)	950	57	103	–	6½	27	–
	1000	24	72	–	25	47	–
	1050	8	46	–	60	70	–
Hanson (*545)	460	105	113	115	1	8	14
	500	65	80	87	3	18	27
	550	25	42	60	16	43	50
Hillsdown (*238)	180	59	61	65	1	5	5½
	200	39	43	51	1½	6½	9½
	220	21	28	38	3½	13	18
Lonrho (*241)	280	45	55	55	1	3	7
	220	25	37	40	2½	7	11
	240	8	22	27	7	12	19
Midland (*196)	160	39	45	50	1	4	6
	180	19	29	38	3½	7	12
	200	7	19	26	11	15	22
	220	2½	11	18	27	30	35
Reuter (*879)	750	138	170	193	4	17	29
	800	90	135	160	7	32	43
	850	58	98	132	20	47	63
R-Royce (*164)	160	6	13	18	6	10	13
	180	1½	6½	9½	24	25	28
	200	½	2½	–	44	43	–
Sears (*94)	80	15½	17	17	1	3	4
	90	6	9½	10½	1½	6	8
	100	1½	4	6½	7	12	13
THF (*269)	260	17	25	31	3	13	15
	280	5½	14	20	12	23	27
	300	3½	7	13	18	37	40
Thorn EMI (*749)	600	157	175	172	1	2	5
	650	107	130	132	1	5	13
	700	59	87	88	2	13	24
	750	19	52	57	15	28	45
TSB (*156)	130	29	34	37	1	2	2
	140	19	25	28	1	2½	5
	160	3½	11	15	5½	8½	11
Vsel Rectn (*560)	50	13	16	18	1	4	6
	60	5	11	13	4	8	10
Wellcome (*512)	460	60	80	97	2½	13	17
	500	26	52	70	10	26	31
	550	5½	29	45	42	52	55
	Series	Mar	May	Aug	Mar	May	Aug
Comm Elec (*169)	140	31	36	39	1	2½	4½
	160	13	19	22	2½	7½	10
	180	2	8	11	12	15	22
Stern Elec (*180)	140	41	46	–	1½	2½	–
	160	22	28	–	2	4	–
	180	6	12	–	5	11	–
Elec Pack (*£1890)	1800	115	165	–	20	55	–
	1850	90	125	–	35	70	–
	1900	50	95	–	70	90	–

FT-SE INDEX (*£2453)

	2250	2300	2350	2400	2450	2500
Calls						
Mar	233	184	135	90	57	28
Apr	250	202	160	118	92	62
May	250	221	183	147	110	87
Jun	274	239	202	166	136	108
Dec	—	315	—	270	—	210
Puts						
Mar	4	6	9	18	35	62
Apr	13	18	28	39	57	83
May	22	27	35	51	67	98
Jun	27	33	44	60	78	100
Dec	—	75	—	105	—	145

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
March 4	March 15	June 13	June 24

Call options were taken out on: B/B/91 BET, Bridgend, Christies, Chrysalis, Cityvision, Dares Estates, Expedier, Ferranti, Gaelic Res, London Finance & Investment, MI. Laboratories, Manganese Bronze, Midland Bank, NSM, Oliver Res, Owners Abroad, Premier Cons Oil, Sastchi & Sastchi.
Puts: Maxwell Communication, Next. Puts & Calls: Ferranti, London Securities.

STOCK MARKET

Profit taking stops index from setting record close

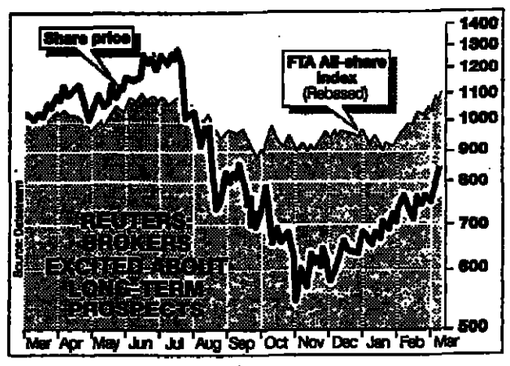
ANOTHER attempt to exceed the stock market's all-time closing high ended in failure after a late bout of profit taking left share prices closing below their best levels of the day.

The FT-SE 100 index was more than 36 points higher at its best as hopes of another cut in interest rates before the Budget on March 19 attracted further institutional support for shares. The index eventually closed 17.3 up at 2,455 — just 8.7 shy of its best close of 2,463.7, on January 3 last year. The rise on the account is 140.7. The improvement in the narrower FT index of 30 shares was restricted to 8.1 at 1,958.7 but a healthy 736 million shares changed hands.

The day started on a cautious note as investors digested the news of the government's defeat in the Ribble Valley by-election. But the Conservative party's strong showing in the latest opinion poll took some of the sting out of the defeat and buyers were soon testing the water. Once again, it was the continental institutions that took up the early running. One financial paper in Switzerland has highlighted the level of Swiss money flowing into Britain. Many European investors still believe that shares in London are cheap compared with other world centres.

The prospect of cheaper money also cheered government securities with rises of £⅛ at the longer end of the market.

Among the leaders, ICI rose 7p to £10.78, Allied-Lyons 8p to 540p, Guinness 24p to 850p, BOC 6p to 579p and Grand Metropolitan 11p to 748p. BTR fell 12p to 382p ahead of its figures next week, expected to show a drop in pre-tax profits from £1.05 billion to £980 million after provisions. Dealers are not ruling out a rights issue.



Speyhawk, the property developer, rose 7p to 93p after confirming that it has agreed to lease its River Building in the Cannon Bridge development, above Cannon Street Station, to the London International Financial Futures Exchange. The building will provide a single trading floor for both Liffe and the London Traded Options Market when they merge this year.

Reuters, the international news agency and financial services group, continues to go from strength to strength with the shares climbing 17p to 880p yesterday. The City believes that Cazenove's share of the year is Reuters. They were recommended in this column this year when they were 670p and they have risen by 80p this week alone as the City continues to take a closer look at the group's longer-term prospects.

But, surprisingly, Reuters' shares have been the worst performing of those companies with an American depository receipts facility. As a result, the shares are again attracting American support.

Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, remains bullish, pointing to strong revenue growth as Dealing 2000/02, its computerised trading screen system for financial markets, comes on stream this summer. Dealing 2000/02 will provide a boost to revenues during the next few years. Pre-tax profits in the current year are expected to grow by only £8 million to £328 million, but will probably surge to almost £400 million next year.

Next slipped ½p to 32½p despite receiving increased offers for its Grattan mail order business from both Sears and Otto-Versand, the German mail order group. Otto Versand raised its offer from £140 million to £151 million but was quickly topped by Sears, the Freemans mail order group, which raised its bid by £5 million to £155 million. Sears was unmoved at 94p.

Rank Organisation announced plans to sell eight social and bingo clubs in London. Meanwhile, Michael Gifford, the chief executive, has decided to take a profit on part of his holding in the company after the recent strong performance by the shares. He has sold 12,984 shares at 742p each. They formed part of a package of 20,000 shares for which he paid 520p a share.

Logitek, the computer specialist, touched 34p before settling 2p better at 28p. The group has received an offer which may lead to a bid. Last night, it emerged that a rival, Microvitec, which is quoted on the USM, had made the offer. Microvitec was 1p firmer at 19½p. The talks are continuing.

Norfolk House, the petrol station operator and developer headed by Tom Harrison, tumbled 82p to 60p after he reported that pre-tax profits for the 14 months to November 30 would be "materially below" expectations.

Westbury, the housebuilder, fell 15p to 185p after the group said it would be making provisions against its land bank after an independent review. The group sold 2,500 houses last year but depressed conditions resulted in lower selling prices and margins.

Taylor Woodrow lost 11p to 271p ahead of full-year figures on Monday which are not likely to make pleasant reading. County NatWest, the broker, is forecasting a drop in pre-tax profits from £116.9 million to £80 million.

The water companies attracted selective support. The solid yields are likely to prove increasingly attractive to the income funds as interest rates continue to fall. There were gains for Severn Trent, 2p to 287p, Southern, 2p to 287p, South West, 3p to 313p, Thames, 2p to 305p, Welsh, 1p to 332p, and Yorkshire, 2p to 312p. The water package also advanced £18 to £3,073.

MICHAEL CLARK

Irish media group slides to £10m

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

O'Reilly: taking up rights

INDEPENDENT Newspapers, the media group which is based in Dublin and headed by Mr Tony O'Reilly, chief executive of Heinz, made pretax profits of Ir£9.99 million (£9.16 million) in 1990, down from Ir£15.5 million the previous year.

Sales rose from Ir£147.9 million to Ir£155 million and earnings per share fell from 30.08p to 23.77p. The final dividend is 8.5p making 13p for the year, up from 12p.

Net interest payable rose from Ir£2.37 million to Ir£5.11 million and there was an exceptional debit of Ir£2.55 million made up of the provision for the group's investment in Golden Grid and the profits from its disposal of its stake in Reuters.

The group, which owns the *Irish Independent*, Ireland's largest selling daily newspaper, is launching an Ir£30 million convertible capital bond.

Shareholders are entitled to apply for Ir£1 nominal of the 6 per cent bonds for every 1.2076 shares held. Mr O'Reilly has irrevocably undertaken to to apply for Ir£8.34 million, representing 27.79 per cent of the total issue.

Offshoot of HK Bank rises 20%

From LULU YU IN HONG KONG

HANG Seng Bank, the 62 per cent-owned subsidiary of the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, yesterday reported net profits for last year rose 20 per cent to HK$2.19 billion (£148.7 million) after transfers to the secret reserves.

The hefty profits were slightly above market expectations, but did not raise any new hopes about the results of its parent bank, due to be announced next week.

Many analysts expect Hongkong Bank's profits to decline by as much as 25 per cent to below HK$4.3 billion, after the bank suffered a 21 per cent plunge in interim earnings. The disastrous results of Marine Midland, the bank's American offshoot, and the Hongkong Bank of Australia are expected to dampen the healthy profits contributed by Hang Seng.

Earnings per share for Hang Seng rose to HK$2.21 from HK$1.84. Directors proposed a final dividend of 93 cents a share, making a total dividend of HK$1.20, 20 per cent more than 1989.

The bank said it hopes to recommend dividends of not less than HK$1 for this year.

Jardine breach excused

JARDINE Matheson group said yesterday that it has apologised to Hong Kong's stock exchange for having breached a share buy-back rule, and that it will divest itself of the shares in question (a correspondent writes).

An exchange spokesman said in view of Jardine's apology and public disclosure of the circumstances, the exchange would take no further action against the group.

He said it was accepted that the breaches by the Jardine Matheson group were "technical" and "inadvertent."

Jardine's breaches occurred between June and October 1989, when Connaught Investors, then a subsidiary of Jardine Matheson Holdings, bought shares in blue-chip companies including its own parent.

The move was prohibited under a listing rule that took effect on June 16, 1989, which bars any public company or its subsidiaries from repurchasing their own shares.

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily ch'ge (£)	Yearly ch'ge (£)	Daily ch'ge (lc)*	Yearly ch'ge (lc)*	Daily ch'ge (US$)	Yearly ch'ge (US$)
The World	867.0	0.7	16.2	0.4	14.5	0.0	13.2
(free)	127.4	0.7	16.1	0.4	14.3	0.0	13.1
EAFE	1139.4	0.8	16.1	0.6	14.8	0.2	13.1
(free)	117.0	0.8	16.0	0.5	14.5	0.2	12.9
Europe	691.8	0.8	16.2	0.8	16.9	0.1	13.2
(free)	149.3	0.8	15.9	0.6	16.2	0.1	12.9
Nth America	490.8	0.4	16.5	–0.2	13.4	–0.2	13.4
Nordic	1336.2	0.4	22.9	0.3	22.8	–0.2	19.7
(free)	217.0	0.3	21.3	0.2	21.4	–0.4	18.1
Pacific	2503.8	0.9	16.0	0.4	13.2	0.2	13.0
Far East	3630.6	0.9	16.1	0.4	13.3	0.2	13.1
Australia	262.1	1.0	14.2	0.3	11.7	0.3	11.2
Austria	1498.9	0.5	14.6	0.9	16.2	–0.1	11.6
Belgium	827.0	1.3	17.1	1.3	17.9	0.7	14.0
Canada	472.7	0.1	11.2	–0.3	8.4	–0.6	8.3
Denmark	1266.4	0.3	17.4	0.2	18.0	–0.4	14.3
Finland	76.2	2.2	18.4	2.2	19.0	1.5	15.3
(free)	114.2	4.1	32.8	4.0	33.4	3.4	29.3
France	683.3	1.1	19.2	1.2	20.6	0.4	16.1
Germany	772.4	0.8	12.8	0.9	14.0	0.2	9.8
Hong Kong	2389.4	0.6	24.2	0.0	20.9	0.0	21.0
Italy	287.8	0.4	12.8	0.5	12.8	–0.3	9.8
Japan	3794.2	0.9	15.7	0.4	12.8	0.2	12.7
Netherlands	821.3	1.0	11.2	1.0	12.3	0.3	8.3
New Zealand	59.3	–0.1	15.3	–1.3	10.7	–0.7	12.3
Norway	1217.2	0.7	9.3	0.7	9.7	0.0	6.4
(free)	214.4	0.1	10.3	0.1	10.7	–0.6	7.4
Sing/Malay	1822.8	0.7	25.7	0.2	22.8	0.0	22.5
Spain	205.2	1.1	25.0	1.1	23.2	0.4	21.7
Sweden	1490.6	0.1	31.0	–0.1	30.2	–0.6	27.5
(free)	217.0	0.1	30.8	–0.1	30.1	–0.6	27.3
Switzerland	822.0	1.3	16.5	1.3	20.4	0.6	13.5
(free)	124.1	1.6	15.5	1.6	19.3	0.9	12.5
UK	739.6	0.5	15.7	0.5	15.7	–0.1	12.7
USA	446.1	0.5	16.9	–0.2	13.9	–0.2	13.9

(lc)* Local currency. Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
74	21	ASB Bank	28	25	–	–	–	5.5
113	38	ASD	75	80	-5	–	–	8.8
61	15	ATA Selection	13	17	–	3.3b	22.0	3.6
229	72	Aberdeen Pet	144	154	+10	–	–	20.0
66	24	Aberdeen Str Hse	25	30	–	–	–	32.8
215	180	Acal	175	180	–	6.6	3.7	9.8
9	3	Acorn Comp	14	17	–	–	–	4.3
137	75	Akzoncoat	110	140	–	7.6	5.7	6.5
163	102	Alex Pirie	132	138	-5	4.1	3.1	13.4
363	38	Alexkirkton	38	43	–	–	–	0.6
118	76	Allen	108	111	+2	6.4	5.8	7.2
141	109	Allied Ins	118	124 r	–	8.0	12.1	7.1
43	18	Alt Leisure	126	130 e	+8	5.7	5.3	7.7
43	18	Ambotsky Gp	23	25	–	2.0	8.7	6.7
208	129	Amer Biz Sys	142	145	–	3.5	2.4	8.9
40	13	Anglo Pac Res	33	38	–	–	–	24.2
18½	8	Apollo Watch Prods	12	14	–	0.7	5.4	7.1
380	135	App Holographics	170	180	–	–	–	–
255	80	Ashford	137	143 e	-1	5.1	3.5	5.6
422	85	Aspen Comms	150	159	–	10.8b	7.0	4.8
430	265	Astrey	315	330	–	5.8	1.8	17.2
18	3	Assoc Energy	3½	5	+½	–	–	–
65	45	Assoc Fisheries	45	47	–	–	–	–
207	123	Assoc Nursing	125	128 e	-2	4.0	3.1	14.7
205	13	Atlantic Sec	11	18	–	–	–	23.6
800	470	Atos Equipment	575	605	–	22.0	3.2	17.9
42	7½	Avdel General	4	5½	–	0.4	8.0	–
90	30	Aubrey Gp	48	53	–	6.7	12.1	13.7
48	14	BBI Group	21	24	+1	2.8e	12.2	4.2
18½	7½	BCC	7½	9	–	–	–	–
59	31	BLP Group	33	35	–	0.4	1.3	7.4
99	37	BMD	42	45	-2	2.3	5.2	14.7
188	23	Balmoral	38	48	–	–	–	–
87	38	Barkerskan	42	47 e	+3	4.0	8.9	5.7
63	20	Barnard (William)	29	30	–	–	–	3.8
172	92	Barnett Chaps	109	113	-1	3.7	3.3	8.9
70	50	Barry,Birch & Webb	60	70	–	–	–	18.5
258	85	Batter Cons Prods	151	169	–	4.7	4.2	20.1
102	55	Bayley Underwood	84	90	–	5.3	7.4	6.7
49	13	Bis Holdings	23	28	–	–	–	30.9
7	2	Beaufort	3½	5½	–	–	–	–
110	55	Blackwood Hodge	76	81	–	10.3	13.1	5.4
156	38	Blackhill Tape	43	48	–	1.3	3.0	20.6
49	23	Border TV	30	37 e	-1	2.6	7.8	14.2
59	25	Borland	39b	27b	+½	–	–	–
155	118	Boustead Ind	148	144	–	7.6	5.8	8.1
155	40	Br Bloodstock	49	55	+2½	–	–	8.7
125	20	Br Thermos	15	25	–	–	–	–
38½	6½	Brand St	14	16	-1	–	–	–
104	38	Bridgend Hdgs	38	41	-1	4.0	6.7	12.5
7	2½	Bus Resources	3	3½	–	–	–	55.0
227	54	Business Tech	60	67	–	5.3	6.3	5.1
34	3	CCS Gp	11	13	–	0.7	–	8.0
183	131	CML Micro	158	163	–	3.1	1.9	10.5
40	6	CPU Comp	17	18	–	0.6	4.8	10.6
130	108	Cap & Regional	120	130	–	7.2	7.0	4.2
184	148	Capita Gp	160	167	+2	8.0	5.3	13.4
93	74	Carron Phoenix	87	92	–	1.5	2.0	75.0
51	33	Cassidy Bros	43	46	–	1.0	2.2	–
400	188	Castle Comms	225	245	–	11.3	4.8	9.7
121	88	Central Manufg	88	93 e	–	4.7	5.2	8.8
74	34	Charnwd	70	77	–	0.3	0.4	5.6
178	38	Chelsea Man	47	56	–	4.8	8.6	–
127	85	Chesham Group	100	110	–	6.1	5.6	13.5
57	6	Chesport	5	9	–	–	–	–
24½	9½	City & West	9½	9	–	–	–	–
98	32	City of Lon	38	42	–	3.8	7.0	7.5
145	41	Clarke Hooper	52	55 e	-1	5.8	10.9	5.3
12	1½	Clearmark	2½	2½	–	–	–	1.5
111	51

WALL STREET

New York

BLUE chips were firm at mid-morning after losing part of their opening rises as investors consolidated the market's gains. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 11 points to 2,974.37 after climbing to about 2,989. Bruce Bittles, a market strategist at JC Bradford & Co, said it was likely that blue chips would move above the 3,000 mark next week. *(Reuter)*

	Mar 8 midday	Mar 7 close		Mar 8 midday	Mar 7 close		Mar 8 midday	Mar 7 close
Abbott Lab	47½	48	Enron	55	54¾	Onyx Energy	38¾	38¾
Aetna Life	46¾	46¾	Enserch	23¾	23¾	Pac Ent	41¾	42
Ahmanson	17¾	17¾	Ethyl	29¾	30¼	Pac Gas Elec	24¾	24¾
Air Prods	67¾	69¾	Exxon	56¾	56¾	Pac Telesis	42¾	41¾
Albertsons	41¾	41½	Fed NMA	48¾	48	Paccar	39¾	40¼
Alcan Al	22¾	23	Fedni Expts	40¾	40¾	Pacificorp	21¼	21¾
Alco Stand	52¾	52¼	Ft Nonwst	17¾	16¾	Pall	31¼	30¾
Allied Signal	29¾	30	Fluor	52	51¾	Paramount	43¾	43
Alumin CA	68	67¾	FMC	37¾	37	Parker-Hanfin	27¾	27¾
Am Brands	46¾	46¾	Ford Motor	34¾	34¾	Penney	56¾	58
Am Cyanamd	59¾	59¾	FPL	29¾	29¾	Pennzoil	71	70¾
Am ERC	28¾	28¾	Ft Chicago	22¾	23¾	Pepsico	33	32¾
Am General	38	37¾	Ft Intrstt	35¾	35	Pfizer	107¾	107½
Am Home	57¾	58¾	Ft Union	21¾	22¾	Philip Pet	28¾	28¾
Am Info	94	94¾	Gannett	40¾	40¾	Philips Elec	19	19¾
Am Medical	5¾	6¾	Gen Cinema	23¾	24	Phip Morris	66¾	67¾
Am Stores	77¾	76¾	Gen Elec	66	66¾	Phips Dodge	58¾	58¾
Amax	26¾	26¾	Gen Mills	54¾	54¾	Pitney Bow	51¾	52¼
Amer Hess	50	49¾	Gen Motors	36¾	36¾	Plc Gamb	14¾	14¾
Ameritech	65	64¾	Gen RE	57¾	58¾	PNC Fncl	30¾	30¾
Amsk	27¾	28¾	Gen Signal	43¾	43¾	Primdis Extn	14¾	14¾
Amoco	53¾	53	Genuinch	26¾	25¾	Polaroid	29¾	29¾
AMP	53¾	53	Genuine Pts	40¾	41	PPG Inds	51¾	51¾
AMR	59¾	59¾	Georgia-Pac	43¾	43¾	Proc Gamble	87	85¾
Anheuser-B	47¾	48¾	Gillette	76¾	77¾	Price	43¾	43¾
Apple Comp	66¾	67¾	Goodrich	43¾	42¾	Primerica	32	32
Archer-Dan	22¾	22¾	Goodyear	23¾	24	Pub Service	26¾	26¾
Arkla	19¾	19¾	Grace	31¾	31	Quaker Oats	57¾	57¾
Armstrong	26¾	27	Greyhound	30¾	30¾	Ralston Pur	107¾	107¾
Asarco	29¾	29¾	Gt Atlantic	24¾	24¾	Raychem	28¾	28¾
Ashland Oil	33¾	33¾	Gt Western	17¾	16¾	Raytheon	77¾	78¾
AT&T	33¾	33¾	GTE	31¾	32	Reebok	23¾	22¾
Atlan Richfld	128¾	128¾	Halliblin	52¾	52¾	Roadway	47¾	48
Auto DP	66¾	66¾	Heinz	37¾	37¾	Rockwell	28¾	28¾
Avery Intl	24¾	24¾	Hercules	41¾	41¾	Rohm Hass	49	49¾
Avon Prod	43¾	43¾	Hershey Fd	38¾	38¾	Royal Dutch	n/a	82¾
Baltimore	27¾	27¾	Hewlet Pkd	46¾	46¾	Rubbermaid	46¾	44¾
Banc One	34¾	34¾	Hilton Hd	48¾	48¾	Ryder Mit	63¾	64¾
Bankamerica	35¾	34	Home Depot	51¾	52	Safeco	40	40
Bard	22¾	21¾	Homestake	17	16¾	Salomon	28¾	28¾
Barnett Bk	24¾	24¾	Honeywell	61¾	60¾	Sant Fe Pac	7¾	7¾
Bausch Lmb	80¾	80	Houston Ind	36¾	36	Sara Lee	37	36¾
Baxter Intl	35¾	35¾	Howlett Intl	48¾	48¾	Schlumberger	37¾	37¾
Bec Dickin	73¾	73¾	Humana	48	47¾	Schering	54¾	54¾
Bell Atlan	48¾	47¾	IBM	132¾	132¾	Schrg-Plgh	52¾	51¾
Bellsouth	52¾	52¾	IFF	86	87	Scott Paper	44¾	44¾
Ben Hughes	28¾	28¾	Illinois TW	55¾	55¾	Seagram	95¾	95¾
Berg Becker	14¾	14¾	Inco	32¾	31¾	Sears Rbk	32	31¾
Block	49¾	49¾	Ingsl-Rand	52¾	51¾	Sectry Pac	29¾	29¾
Bstn Tst NY	46¾	46	Inland Steel	25¾	24¾	Sherwin-Wms	44¾	44¾
Boeing	50¾	50¾	Intel	52¾	51¾	Skyline	17	17¾
Boise Casc	27	26¾	Intl Paper	62	62¾	Snap-on Tls	31¾	31¾
Borden	34¾	34	ITT	56¾	57¾	Southern	28¾	27
Brst-Myer	76¾	75¾	James River	26¾	26¾	St Paul	57¾	57¾
Browng-Fer	27¾	27¾	Johnson Jhsn	91¾	90¾	Stanley Wks	36¾	36¾
Burl Nth	28¾	28¾	K Mart	40¾	41¾	Stone Cntr	15	14¾
CAI	9¾	9¾	Kellogg	63¾	63¾	Sun Co	34¾	36¾
Campbell Sp	70¾	71¾	Kerr-McGee	46¾	48	Sunst Bk	28¾	28¾
Cap Cities	480	488¾	Kimbly-Clk	67¾	67	Super Valu	28¾	28¾
Capital HC	45¾	45¾	Knight-Ridr	50¾	49¾	SW Bell	54¾	54¾
Carolina	49¾	49¾	Lilly	83¾	83	Sysmx	76¾	76¾
Caterpillar	55¾	54¾	Limited	25¾	25¾	Sysco	36¾	36¾
CBS	182¾	183¾	Liz Claiborg	16¾	16¾	Tandem	16	16¾
Central SW	42¾	42¾	Lincln Nat	46¾	46¾	Tandy	34	33¾
Champion	27¾	27¾	Litton Ind	84¾	84¾	Tele-comm	16¾	16
Chase Man	15	15	Lockheed	41¾	41	Teledyne	22¾	22¾
Chem Bkng	17¾	18	Louis-Pac	32¾	32	Templ-In	38	38¾
Chevron	72¾	73¾	Manu Hanov	26¾	26¾	Tenneco	48¾	49¾
Chrysler	14¾	14¾	Marrioit	19¾	19¾	Texaco	65¾	65¾
Chubb	68	68	Marsh McLen	79	78¾	Texas Inst	45¾	45¾
Cigna	49¾	49¾	Martin Mar	49¾	49¾	Texas Util	36¾	36¾
Citicorp	15¾	15¾	Masco	23¾	23	Textron	30¾	30¾
Clorox Liz	45¾	44¾	May Dept	54¾	54¾	Time Warr	110¾	109¾
Clorox	40	39¾	Mayflg	14	13¾	Times Mirr	29¾	30¾
Cmwlth Edis	38¾	38¾	MCA	n/a	n/a	Timken	27¾	27¾
CNA Fncl	84¾	84	McDnl Doug	41¾	41	Torchmark	55¾	55¾
Coeana	32¾	32¾	McDonald's	35	34¾	Toys R Us	27¾	28
Coca-Cola	62¾	62¾	McGraw-Hill	58¾	58¾	Transam	38	38¾
Colgate-Pal	75¾	74¾	MCI Com	27¾	27¾	Travelers	22¾	22¾
Colomb Gas	44	43¾	Mead	29¾	30	Tribune	43¾	42¾
Compaq	71¾	71	Medtronic	119¾	119¾	TRW	41¾	41¾
Conagra	42¾	43	Mellon	61	61¾	Tyco Lab	51¾	50
Cons Edis	23¾	23¾	Merck	106¾	104¾	UAL	148¾	148¾
Cons NG	43¾	43¾	Merll Lynch	50¾	51	Un Carbd	42¾	42¾
Corn Fncl	47¾	49	MMM	91¾	90¾	Un Carbide	20	19¾
Cooper Ind	50¾	51¾	Mobil	64¾	63¾	Un Pacific	76¾	77¾
Corning	59¾	60	Monsanto	61¾	62¾	Unilever	96¾	96¾
CPC Intl	82¾	82¾	Moore	24	23¾	Unisys	6¾	6¾
Crown Cork	34	33¾	Morgan	44¾	45¾	Unocal	29¾	29¾
CSX	36¾	36¾	Morgn-St	34¾	34¾	Upjohn	43¾	43¾
Dana	30¾	30¾	Nat Medical	45¾	44¾	US West	38¾	37¾
Dayton-Hud	66¾	66¾	Nat Semi	7¾	7	Utah Gp	22¾	22¾
Deere	52¾	52¾	Nat Service	27	26¾	USF&G	9¾	9¾
Delta Air	77¾	77¾	Navistar	4	4	UST	42¾	42¾
Deluxe	37¾	37¾	NCNB	30¾	30¾	USX	30¾	30¾
Detroit Edi	27¾	28¾	NCR	96¾	97¾	Utd Tech	50¾	50¾
Digital Eq	81¾	81¾	NED Engy	36¾	37¾	Utd Telcm	26¾	26¾
Dillard	105¾	106¾	Newmnt Min	36¾	36¾	VF	26¾	26¾
Disney	126¾	127	Nlsgr Mfwk	14¾	14¾	Wal-Mart	36¾	36¾
Dominion	46¾	45¾	Nike	51¾	50¾	Walgreen	n/a	n/a
Donnelley	46¾	46¾	NL Indstrs	13¾	13¾	Walsh Mgmt	42¾	42¾
Dover	41¾	42	Nordstrom	34	34¾	Wells Fargo	81	82
Dow Chem	54¾	54¾	Norfk Sthn	44¾	44¾	Westg Elec	30	30
Dow Jones	26¾	26¾	Norwest	25¾	25¾	Weyerhar	24¾	24¾
Dresser Ind	28¾	28¾	Nthn St Pwr	33¾	34¾	Whirlpool	27¾	27¾
Du Pont	38¾	38¾	Nthn Telcm	31¾	31¾	Whitman	24¾	24
Duke Pwr	27¾	27¾	NY Times	23¾	22¾	Winn-Dixie	36¾	37¾
Dun Bradst	46¾	46¾	Nynex	76¾	76¾	Woolworth	33¾	33¾
Eastn Kodak	45¾	45¾	Ocelo Petrl	19¾	19¾	Wrigley	60¾	61¾
Eaton	59¾	59¾	Ohio Edi	17¾	17¾	Wrner-Lamb	77¾	78
Emerson El	43¾	43¾	Oracle Sys	9¾	9¾	Xerox	58¾	58

TOKYO

Futures boost turnover

Tokyo

SHARES ended at their highest close so far this year after March futures and options settlements dominated dealings, boosting turnover. The Nikkei index closed 209.56 points, or 0.79 per cent, up at 26,607.52 with volume reaching 850 million shares.

Brokers said that the market was relieved that prices proved to be so resilient in the face of volatility caused by settlement-related orders.

After opening cautiously because of the March settlements, the market was flooded with index-linked orders. Volume climbed to 450 million shares in the first hour.

Some brokers estimated that 200 million to 300 million of the shares traded were settlement-linked. The main rises were the communications, broking, non-life insurance, electrical, warehouse, paper/pulp, rubber, machinery, oil and shipping sectors.

Declining issues were led by the credit/lease, railway/bus, trucking, retail, mining, textile, precision instruments, and non-ferrous metal sectors.

● **Frankfurt** — Shares held on to gains to close broadly higher, pushing the Dax index above the psychologically important 1,600 level. The Dax ended 21.83 points, or 1.4 per cent, higher at 1,602.29.

● **Sydney** — The market edged up to its highest close for the year and brokers continued to be optimistic about further rises. The All-Ordinaries index ended 3.6 points up at 1,415.2.

● **Hong Kong** — Prices ended slightly weaker as late but weighty bargain hunting failed to wholly offset morning profit taking. The Hang Seng index eased 5.05 points to 3,653.19. The broader-based Hong Kong index slid 3.04 points to 2,396.68.

● **Singapore** — Shares closed mostly higher in the broader market after a day of active trading saw bargain hunting alternating with profit taking. But the Straits Times industrial index still closed 6.34 points down at 1,506.23. *(Reuter)*

TEMPUS

BA spots a gap in the clouds

THE past six months have been a bad dream for British Airways. The oil price spike compounded recession and the Gulf war left airline seats empty. On the stock market, BA shares have woken from this bad dream; they leapt from a low at about the 1987 issue price of 125p to yesterday's 170p in six weeks. BA, however, is still sweating.

The financial year ending in three weeks' time is a write-off. The figures are largely academic, since pre-agreed sales of aircraft will flatter them, while BA will throw a heap of exceptional redundancy costs into a hole created by winter trading losses. Richard Hannah, of UBS Phillips & Drew, suggests the upshot might be £150 million pre-tax, for earnings of about 11p per share net of asset sales and provisions.

The main question about 1990-91 is whether BA will leave its dividend at 8.85p per share, which seems likely. The balance sheet will also suffer from the drain of cash and the slump in aircraft values. Failures of firms such as Air Europe will have more impact on the market for aircraft than that for airline seats.

The Gulf war will also depress the industry's 1991-92 trading. Seats on summer flights have been sold cheaply and new aircraft will arrive at the wrong time. Traffic takes time to recover fully and many carriers used the Gulf war as an excuse to trade down and cut travel costs.

With little to come from aircraft sales next year, Mr Hannah has pencilled in pre-tax profits of only £130 million. That would leave BA shares on a challenging recovery rating of more than 14 times 1991-92 earnings with a yield of 6.9 per cent, provided the dividend is held again. Buyers looking at BA's immensely strong international route network and its relative financial strength see that this will pay handsomely.

Further ahead, BA will face more formidable competition on the Atlantic routes. United Airlines and American Airlines have a trading advantage from their American networks, which are doubly protected from foreign ownership and from foreign carriers penetrating the internal market.

In lower gear: Richard Allan, chairman of Perry Group (left) and Tom Cowie

BA's profits still depend on the Atlantic. The group, however, has European plans, Brussels will surely counter continued American protection and, should Heathrow slots become marketable, BA's balance sheet would be transformed.

Motor dealers

IT WAS difficult at first glance yesterday to understand how Quicks Group and Perry Group, fellow motor dealers, could contrive such contrasting statements. While Quicks was giving warning of a slide into losses in 1990, Perry was announcing market-pleasing pre-tax profits of £4 million for last year.

At the trading level the two companies are facing similarly unfriendly conditions. At Perry, £1 million of the reported profit came from property sales, and of the £3 million profit on trading, £2.2 million was earned in the first half, with only £800,000 achieved in the second six months.

However, at Quicks the problems appear to have been compounded as the group ran into "management and accounting problems" at its Coventry Rover franchise.

Indeed, the real difference between the two lies perhaps in the quality of the management and the state of the balance sheets. Perry, with 24 per cent gearing, should see out the downturn comfortably. In contrast, Quicks had gearing of 70 per cent at its last year end and interest charges of £2.1 million against £6.3 million of trading profits.

Balance sheets hold the key to rating companies in this sector because motor dealers traditionally carry heavy gearing to finance their contract hire operations.

From a sector multiple of between seven and eight, motor dealers' shares have soared in the past month as interest rates began to fall. Tom Cowie, the chairman of T Cowie, which reported its 1990 figures this month has said that every 1 per cent fall in rates feeds directly through to £2.4 million of additional profit on the bottom line.

With consumer confidence and sales expected to increase in the second half and many smaller unquoted operators going into receivership, some investors are now looking to the sector for recovery. Cowie and Lex appear the best buys if only because of the liquidity of the shares.

Among the smaller stocks, Perry, with its low gearing and strong management is among the more reliable. However, forecast 1991 profits of £2.5 to £3 million leave the shares on a far from cheap rating of 11 to 15 — although this falls to 8 times in 1992.

Racal Telecom

RACAL Telecom shares have been largely overlooked in the wake of this week's white paper on competition in the phone industry. The market has instead focused on the pros and cons for BT and its sprightly rival, Mercury, part of Cable and Wireless.

On any reading of the white paper, however, Racal Telecom, which owns Vodafone, becomes more rather than less open to takeover.

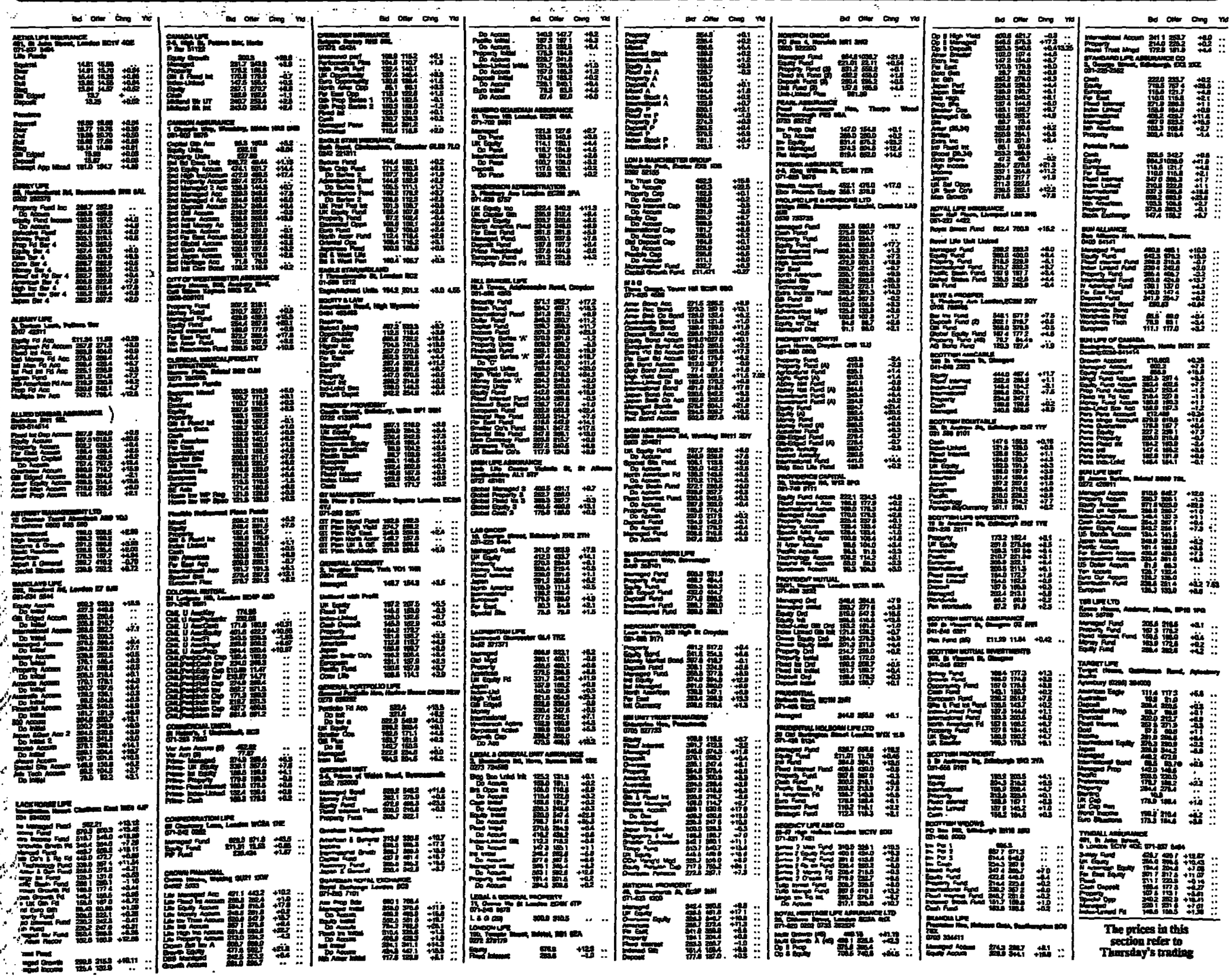
Racal Telecom has been bid proof since its stock market debut in 1988 because Racal Electronics, its former parent company, kept 80 per cent of the shares. That decision was hotly debated at the time and became the subject of a proxy battle started by Millicom, an American cellular telephone company with a valuable stake in Racal. Millicom argued that RE investors were unlikely to maximise the value of their Racal Telecom shares by retaining 80 per cent and floating off the rest. This has proved to be the case. The market has often implied a negative value to the substantial non-cellular businesses of RE as calculated by stripping out the market value of the Racal Telecom holding.

Late last year, RE opted for a three-way split to end the discount. Demerging Racal Telecom will make the company a bid target for the first time, but the trade department, which awarded the cellular phone licence, has the right to object if more than 25 per cent changes hands. The duopoly review makes trade department opposition to a bid, even from an overseas candidate, unlikely. The main criterion in the white paper will be the likelihood of increased competition.

Long-term players in cellular telephony are likely to view Racal Telecom shares as good value in the current depressed climate. But margins are improving despite a slower growth rate, Racal Telecom's other businesses are eliminating losses and there is a chance of further foreign franchise awards.

Profits to March will show a rise of about 45 per cent to £240 million, although disposals could push the reported figure. About £275 million is on the cards for the current year and analysts are penciling in £320 million for the following trading period. At 345p, Racal Telecom shares are a buy.

UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS



The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading

CAPITAL CITY Joanna Pitman in Tokyo

Japan's housewives hold purse strings

Japanese housewives' coffee mornings are different from those held in Britain. Tupperware designs and cake recipes are not on the agenda and the beverage is likely to be green tea.

Mrs Sasaki may briefly compare notes with her neighbour on their toddlers' kindergarten entrance examinations, and the kimono-clad Mrs Kobayashi might touch on the subject of her geisha-chasing husband. But such fripperies are usually dispensed with quickly. For the main topic of conversation is the state of the financial markets.

This kind of congenial meeting is typically convened by one of Japan's 500,000 itinerant "financial planners", who arrives dressed in spruce pin-striped skirt and shoulder pads, her clutch bag stuffed with equity, bond and commodity market statistics.

The job of the door-to-door saleswoman in Japan is a specialist one. Apart from newspapers, cosmetics and condoms (the purveyors of which are known as skin ladies), financial services are the only products to be sold in Japan's front rooms.

Investment strategy coffee mornings are well attended, for Japanese women are responsible for the majority of the nation's individual investments. They account for an estimated 20 per cent of the total market capitalisation of the Tokyo Stock Exchange and are considered particularly canny investors.

Japan's financial services companies cannot afford to ignore housewife investors, for they have total control over the family purse strings. The household savings of an average Japanese family amount to Y15 million (£56,000).

The investment of these savings and the husband's salary is normally left to the woman, because the office and corporate entertaining duties of a Japanese salaried employee are so onerous that he has no time to visit the bank. He must also rely on the sympathy of his wife for his weekly pocket money.

Money matters: wives meet to discuss family investments

Japan's financial services companies have tailored their sales forces to the demands of a female market. For example, Nippon Life, the world's largest life insurance company, with assets of Y26,000 billion, has a door-to-door sales force of 80,000 *nissei* ladies. These peripatetic peddlers, mobilised six days a week all over the country, are expected to sell policies to women during daylight hours and to men in dimly lit whisky bars at night.

The life of a *nissei* lady is tough. "We have to get at least four new clients a month, and because over 90 per cent of Japanese already have life insurance, we have to ween most of them from other companies or sell new products like our equity-linked policies," said one 40-year-old *nissei* lady.

She is an old hand at the game, but more than 80 per cent of new recruits every year leave the job because of the high-pressure tactics they are forced to employ. Friends, parents, husbands and former boyfriends are all quickly tapped for policy payments and once these sources are exhausted the coffee mornings become part of the standard hard-sell routine.

While it is the good services of the *nissei* ladies that keep Nippon Life famously flush (they brought in Y5,050 billion worth of new premiums in fiscal year 1990) these ladies are given no pay guarantee and have to earn everything they get on commission.

Meanwhile, their male bosses who sit round the boardroom table and the 4,500 men who play with that cash on the international bond and equity markets are given a straight salary and lifetime employment security.

But the *nissei* ladies represent one of Japan's few meritocracies and, as such, it suits some. "Those of us who have *gattsu* [guts] can earn plenty," said the 40-year-old premium pusher, who earns more than Y10 million (£39,000) a year. "That's a lot more than most Japanese women ever dream of getting."

Stirring up competition from own-label coffees

The monopolies commission says Nestlé is not acting against the public interest, but it would like to see a stronger challenge from supermarkets

AS you sup your breakfast coffee this morning, take comfort from the knowledge that, at 2p to 3p a cup, it represents fair value for money.

The Monopolies and Mergers Commission has cleared Nestlé, the company that invented instant coffee and commands a 50 per cent share of the United Kingdom market, of acting against the public interest.

Coffee is big business, and can be highly profitable. Last year, Britons are reckoned to have spent £520 million on instant coffee.

Yet three companies account for four out of every five cups drunk in Britain. Their market dominance is extraordinary. The fact that Nestlé, which introduced instant coffee to Britain in 1939, still dominates the market is no small achievement.

The closest challenger to Nestlé's lead is Kraft General Foods, which is reckoned to account for a quarter of the market with its Maxwell House, Kenco and Café Hag brands and own-brand products for retailers. Brooke Bond, part of Unilever, trails in third place with a 5 per cent share commanded by its Red Mountain blend.

Sir Gordon Borrie, the director general of fair trading, launched the monopolies commission enquiry last April. He had become concerned at the failure of instant coffee prices to reflect a fall in the price of coffee beans.

For many years, world coffee bean prices were kept artificially high by a producers' cartel, the International Coffee Organisation (ICO). In July 1989, the cartel suspended its quota system and bean prices halved. By mid-December that year, green beans were going through the market at 88 cents a pound, but the price of soluble coffee remained unchanged.

Influence: adverts such as Gold Blend's helped sales

Inquiries by Sir Gordon will have shown that before bean prices were left to find their own level, beans accounted for about 42p of the price of a 100 gramme jar of coffee then retailing for 159p. It was not until January last year, after Sir Gordon announced his concerns, that Nestlé and its rivals lopped 20p off the price of a jar — and £50 million off their annual revenues.

There have been no manufacturers' price changes in instant coffee for 14 months. In the absence of any new ICO agreement, the coffee bean market has been highly unstable, with only a modest recovery to 95 cents a pound.

The monopolies commission focused on why it took so long for the price of instant coffee to fall. It found that Nestlé could have cut its prices sooner.

In other countries the question might not matter. They use ground or roast beans to make most of their coffee. In Britain, more than 80 per cent of coffee consumed is soluble powders or granules.

The manufacturers argued that special factors prevented them passing on the fall in bean prices to British consumers. Faced with a threatened dock strike in Britain they say, they had increased their orders for beans. Overstocking was compounded by a long, hot summer which cut consumption. As a result, it took six months for the stockpile to be consumed. Nestlé insists that its price cut was planned three months before it was implemented.

The food industry argues that instant coffee is a highly competitive market despite the technical monopoly enjoyed by Nescafé, the most popular UK brand, which commands a 40 per cent share.

There are more than 200 brands, including own-label products. Market shares have changed greatly in recent years. In 1977, when Nestlé lost money on its coffee business, its share had sunk to 26.5 per cent.

Advertising has had a powerful influence on its sales recovery. But increased prosperity and foreign travel have also triggered a striking shift in the pattern of sales.

One slogan, "fresh coffee taste, without the grind," sums it up. To combat modest, but rising sales of ground and roast coffee, soluble coffee makers have headed up-market. For decades, the industry relied upon strong, earthy Robusta beans and the spray drying process to produce a product that seemed passable to the average British palate.

In recent years, however, manufacturers have found they can command premium prices by combining fine flavoured Arabica beans with the freeze-drying process to produce brands such as Nestlé's Alta Rica, which sells for £2.55 for 100g. Nestlé's Cap Colombie brand, made entirely from Colombian beans, commands an even higher premium. According to Nestlé: "The sales graph of these has been almost vertical since they were launched."

The commission concluded that better own-brands from the supermarkets would provide the most effective competition. Given Nestlé's profitability, it would be surprising if they failed to take the hint.

ROSS TIEMAN
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 34).

Share No	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Weekly Total
1	+8	+7	+7	+6	+4		
2	+6	+5	+6	+8	+8		
3	+7	+6	+5	+9	+6		
4	+7	+5	+8	+5	+3		
5	+6	+7	+5	+8	+4		
6	+8	+3	+7	+8	+6		
7	+7	+4	+4	+6	+2		
8	+9	+5	+7	+6	+3		
9	+6	+6	+5	+7	+6		
10	+6	+6	+4	+7	+4		
11	+6	+6	+5	+6	+2		
12	+6	+6	+5	+9	+5		
13	+6	+6	+7	+7	+3		
14	+6	+3	+8	+8	+6		
15	+7	+6	+7	+7	+4		
16	+7	+7	+4	+7	+5		
17	+8	+6	+6	+5	+5		
18	+8	+8	+5	+8	+4		
19	+6	+4	+7	+6	+7		
20	+7	+5	+6	+7	+3		
21	+7	+8	+4	+6	+4		
22	+7	+5	+7	+7	+6		
23	+9	+5	+5	+6	+4		
24	+7	+4	+7	+6	+7		
25	+8	+5	+8	+5	+4		
26	+8	+6	+6	+7	+5		
27	+7	+5	+4	+6	+3		
28	+8	+5	+6	+7	+7		
29	+9	+6	+6	+8	+3		
30	+6	+4	+6	+8	+8		
31	+6	+7	+6	+7	+5		
32	+7	+4	+8	+7	+7		
33	+6	+5	+5	+7	+3		
34	+7	+6	+7	+6	+3		
35	+9	+6	+7	+6	+5		
36	+7	+5	+4	+9	+2		
37	+7	+4	+6	+7	+8		
38	+8	+4	+5	+8	+2		
39	+6	+8	+5	+9	+8		
40	+6	+4	+6	+6	+3		
41	+8	+7	+6	+7	+5		
42	+7	+7	+6	+6	+4		
43	+8	+5	+6	+6	+3		
44	+7	+4	+8	+7	+6		

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Asian Pacific	118.0	125.5	+0.5	0.16
Assets/Gents	168.1	179.7	-0.3	3.02
Capit Ret	103.9	⊕	-0.1	6.97
Comm/Energy	73.97	79.11	+0.05	1.29
Euro Capit	85.67	91.62	+0.40	1.42
General	169.8	181.59	+0.8	2.75
Japan	93.92	100.4	-0.02	0.00
UK Gth Inc	84.72	105.8	+0.68	2.70
Do Acc	162.7	183.9	+1.1	2.70
US Emerg Cos	58.44	63.56	-0.57	0.00
Income/Gth	303.6	324.9	-0.6	3.15
Mastertrust Acc	85.45	91.38	+0.22	2.61
Am Inc	43.43	46.44	-0.30	7.47
Ethical	47.91	51.24	+0.16	1.95
ABTRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
10, Queen Terrace, Aberdeen AB9 1QJ				
Tel: 0224 633570 dealing (Freephone) 0800 931680				
30, Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7QQ				
Tel: 071-374 5981				
Am Inc/Gth	28.94	28.83	-0.08	2.79
Euro	71.00	75.49	+0.83	0.00
Euro Inc	74.26	79.34	+0.87	0.00
Exempt	74.0	77.0	-3.3	3.01
Extra Inc	39.74	42.89	-0.15	5.85
F/E Emerg Ec	46.98	50.49	+0.07	1.27
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TRUSTS				
Allied Dunbar Centre, Swindon SN1 1EL				
Tel: 0793 514014 dealing 0793 512038				
High Inc	335.6	351.3	..	5.08
Equity Inc	194.8	207.4	..	5.34
High Yield	206.2	219.5	..	5.17
Selected	323.2	343.5	..	3.44
Am Inc	30.49	32.47	..	4.31
World Asset Val	30.79	32.79	..	1.49
Japan	123.8	138.5	..	0.01
Sec of Am	208.7	284.0	..	0.27
BARCLAYS UNICORN				
Unicorn House, 252, Romford Rd E7 7HR				
081-534 5344				
Capit	87.89	94.34	-0.49	4.32
Euro Gth Inc	92.53	99.70	+0.46	1.89
Extra Inc	97.33	104.1	+0.68	6.42
General	196.1	211.2	+0.1	3.83
Gt/Fxd Income	50.31	53.12	+0.05	10.24
Inc Trust	438.9	467.30	+1.9	5.89
BARING FUND MANAGERS				
PO Box 158, Tonbridge, Kent BN9 6DQ				
Tel: 081-466 8002				
Asia Gth	148.77	52.23	-0.26	0.00
Am Sm Cos	62.78	64.57	-0.01	0.00
Australia	48.07	51.81	-0.65	2.21
Convertible	43.64	48.31	+0.17	8.10
East	116.3	128.59	-0.7	0.00
Equity Inc	74.74	80.67	-0.33	6.30
Euro Gth	177.6	188.0	+0.5	2.70
Euro Smlr Cos	158.4	165.0	+1.8	0.80
Europe	68.79	69.00	..	0.00
German Gth	48.27	49.11	+0.05	0.00
Global Gth	74.40	78.32	+0.05	0.10
Jap Gth	188.6	198.0	+1.0	0.00
Jap Smlr	129.2	137.8	-0.5	0.00
Pacific	81.76	88.79	-0.08	3.70
Pacific Inc	184.2	196.8	-0.2	3.70
UK Growth	94.33	99.18	-0.13	3.30
UK Smlr Cos	64.89	71.62	+0.28	2.40
Select Man Fd	61.77	65.48	+0.30	2.40
BROWN SHIPLEY				
8-17, Pennywort Rd, Haywards Heath TN16				
0444 454144				
Emer Cos Acc	115.4	122.99	-1.0	5.48
Do Inc	113.9	122.4	+3.2	2.42
High Inc	66.0	70.35	+0.28	7.27
Income	98.31	106.7	+0.88	5.26
Man Port Inc	81.02	86.29	+0.17	3.02
Do Acc	147.3	156.99	-4.4	3.25
Non Amer	66.62	69.69	+0.03	0.31
Orient	96.6	105.5	+1.2	0.38
Exempt	276.2	294.5	-1.1	4.46
Recov	33.88	36.85	-0.17	1.65
German	36.76	38.32	+1.00	0.10
Ind Recov	28.47	28.19	+0.18	0.24
Europe	20.49	22.06	+0.33	0.51
Comm Genl	13.01	16.18	+0.07	9.15
BUCKMASTER MANAGEMENT				
Beaufort House, 15 St Botolph St London EC3A 7JJ Tel: 071-247 7942 Dealing 01-247 7924				
Fellowship Inc	54.41	57.86	+0.02	3.66
Do Acc	57.80	61.49	+0.02	3.66
Inc Fund 3	167.5	178.2	-0.7	5.67
Do Acc 3	347.7	369.9	-1.5	5.67
Inv Port Inc	151.82	157.46	-0.27	2.96
Do Acc	56.96	58.02	-0.29	2.96
Smlr Inc 5	92.10	97.98	+0.22	3.48
Do Acc	104.8	111.5	+0.2	3.46
Hi Inc Pri Inc	47.28	48.91	+0.20	8.59
BURRAGE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
117 Fenchurch Street London EC3M 5AL				
Tel: 071-488 7216				
Shr Gt Pot Inf 59.76	60.52	+0.05	2.75	
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
PO Box 100 Manchester M60 0AH Tel: 061-832 8300				
Emerg	68.32	104.6	+0.38	2.28
UK Growth	111.4	118.9	-0.5	2.61
UK Income	109.5	116.5	..	5.60
CANNON FUND MANAGERS				
1, Olympic Way, Wembley Middx HA9 0NB				
Tel: 081-902 8876				
SE Asia	47.08	50.35c	..	2.28
Growth	34.69	41.73e	+0.79	1.64
Income	48.41	51.78e	+0.71	0.72
Far East	37.08	39.64e	+0.08	0.57
Nth Amer	43.01	46.00e	+0.19	0.06
Global	61.47	65.06e	+0.03	1.70
European	62.49	66.83e	+1.01	1.38
Japan	94.16	100.7	+0.10	0.01
Strategic Opp	48.20	51.55	+0.66	3.06
Int Currency	46.56	49.36	+0.60	8.04
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
35 Fountain Street, Manchester M22AF				
Tel: Enquiries 061-236 5685 Dealings 061-236 5947				
Capability Trusts				
Am & Gen	79.06	84.14c	-0.90	0.81
Do Acc	83.70	89.05c	-0.95	0.81
European	67.49	61.08	+0.12	1.45
Do Acc	68.61	62.48	+0.13	1.45
F East/Gen	47.85	50.70	..	0.00
Do Acc	47.85	50.70	..	0.00
Giantrans	218.5	232.3e	+2.8	2.42
Do Acc	228.8	251.6e	+3.1	2.42
Growth	275.9	294.6e	-0.3	3.21
Do Acc	451.1	479.8e	-0.8	3.21
Inc 80th Inc	324.6	346.4e	-3.2	5.33
Do Acc	384.2	410.4e	-3.9	5.33
Master Portf	180.02	84.24	-0.32	3.39
Do Acc	197.82	92.45	-0.34	3.39
Spec Sits	61.02	64.92	-1.02	3.39
Do Acc	67.84	72.18	-1.14	3.39
Bexempt Fund				
High Yld Gold	210.34	10.86	-0.02	5.79
Do Acc	210.90	11.24	-0.04	5.79
CAPEL (JAMES) MANAGEMENT				
PO Box 502 7 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4HJ Tel: 071-628 8000 (071-588 6363)				
Amer Incom	131.0	139.8e	-1.5	2.40
Capit	463.9	493.0	-1.1	4.85
Euro Index	108.5	115.7e	+0.4	2.61
Euro Growth	70.80	75.5e	+0.21	2.51
Far East S S	61.82	65.87	+0.09	0.54
Gold Gen S S	54.46	58.12	-0.06	5.33
Income	442.2	471.8	-1.3	5.44
Ind Gth	58.47	62.40	+0.06	1.71
Jap Index	61.58	65.18e	+0.04	0.19
N Amer	278.0	291.3	-1.7	1.36
Tiger Index	62.16	67.76	+0.41	2.05
UK Index	104.0	110.9	-0.6	4.25
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD				
16 Tokenhouse Yard, London EC2R 7AN				
Tel: 071-606 1066				
Amer Portf	50.62	54.11	+0.36	2.43
Euro Port	61.26	66.16	+1.08	1.50
Jap Port	42.64	46.38	+0.59	0.28
Pacific Portf	52.05	55.87	+1.46	2.50
Portf	57.02	60.98	+0.85	2.99
UK Inc/Gth	58.01	60.63	+0.97	7.11
CENTRAL BOARD OF FINANCE OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND				
2, Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ Tel: 071-588 1815				
Inc	517.0	523.2e	..	5.43
Fixed Int	137.9	137.79	..	10.53
Deposit	100.0	..	..	13.25
CHARITIES OFFICIAL INVESTMENT FUND				
2, Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ Tel: 071-588 1815				
Income	498.0	498.7	..	5.69
Acc	217.25	17.409	..	..
Deposit	100.0	..	..	13.25
Fixed Int Inc	110.8	110.6	..	10.46
Do Acc	119.0	119.2e	..	..
CHINA UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
PO Box 158 Bucklersbury House EC2V 8BP Tel: 081-863 3600				
Euro Gth	61.85	67.32	+0.42	1.50
1992 Euro Spc	60.25	64.43	+0.62	1.53
Intl Inc	82.75	87.79	+0.44	5.83
Nam Gth	44.48	47.56	+0.29	1.84
Pacific Gth	68.23	74.04	+0.56	2.01
UK Gen Acc	92.62	98.36e	-0.18	2.68
Do Dist	75.95	80.62e	-0.16	2.68
UK Income	62.76	67.11e	-0.29	6.70
CITY FINANCIAL UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
1 White Hart Yard London Bridge SE1 Tel: 071-407 5500				
Assoc	47.92	50.46e	..	3.82
Back Int Cp Ac	60.33	61.17	..	5.81
Prior Hse Inc	166.4	175.8	..	5.43
Prior Hse Cap	193.5	205.1	..	2.96
COMMERCIAL UNION TRUST MANAGERS				
81 Fenchurch St, Underwriters, London EC3P 3DQ Tel: 071-283 7500 Dealing 081-668 6018				
Am Gth	67.14	71.43	..	2.45
Euro Gth	78.23	84.21	..	1.68
Far East	67.4	71.7	..	0.72
Inc	62.60	68.91e	..	5.36
Do Acc	73.81	78.52e	..	5.36
Jap Growth	33.18	35.30	..	0.00
Monthly Inc	41.98	44.64e	..	10.20
Private Inv Pt	51.18	54.43	..	5.40
Do Acc	57.30	60.96	..	5.40
Protect Inv Pt	78.23	83.49	..	2.99
Prog Inv Pt	54.38	58.49	..	3.58
Smlr Cos Inc	28.23	30.06e	..	3.89
Do Acc	48.23	52.28e	..	3.89
UK/Gen Inc	61.14	65.04	..	4.23
Do Acc	68.91	73.31	..	4.23
Wrldw Bond	44.20	47.02e	..	6.18
Wrldw Eqy Sts	41.27	44.79	..	1.41
Do accum	45.09	49.18	..	1.41
Guilter Gen Inc	101.2	107.8e	-0.6	2.44
Guilter Inc Acc	87.19	92.9e	-0.15	5.41
Guilter Inc Acc	116.7	124.0	+0.30	1.10
COMMERCIAL UNION PRESTIGE FUND MANAGEMENT				
(Formerly Royal Trust Fund Management)				
48, Hart Street, Henley On Thames RG9 2AZ				
Finance/Prop	89.88	92.43	..	3.62
Fixed/Dom	33.68	35.84e	..	10.77
Do Acc	78.22	81.44e	..	10.77
Equity Acc	127.3	135.4e	..	5.79
Do Acc	365.2	388.8e	..	5.79
High Yield Inc	103.6	110.8e	..	7.02
Do Acc	348.9	372.2e	..	7.02
Intl Inc	84.20	89.57	..	1.77
Do Acc	90.98	96.79	..	1.77
Preference Inc	98.00	104.3e	..	10.85
Do Acc	164.5	177.1	..	10.85
PPT Canada	43.19	46.06	..	0.00
PPT Common	43.75	46.67	..	4.71
PPT Europe	129.2	131.1	..	0.98
PPT Global	63.40	66.86	..	4.15
PPT Gold	28.73	30.58	..	0.00
PPT Thai	40.7	43.3	..	0.00
PPT HK	41.29	43.99	..	2.08
PPT Jap	101.7	108.2	..	0.00
PPT Sing/M	68.20	70.43	..	0.00
PPT UK	98.38	104.8	..	1.86
PPT US	88.98	94.64	..	1.51
PPT Cash	78.85	..	..	14.29
Wrldw Alpha	60.18	64.00e	..	0.00
Do Accum	61.89	65.84e	..	0.00
EFM UNIT TRUST MANAGERS				
4, Melville Crescent, Edinburgh Tel: 0345 696696				
Amer	62.23	67.37	+0.47	1.14
Capit	104.2	110.7	..	1.99
Convertible	28.03	29.41e	..	8.76
Euribond	31.34	33.14	..	0.91
Europ Mngd	133.8	138.6	..	2.10
Extra Inc	84.25	88.59	..	7.59
Growth/Inc	187.8	210.2e	..	5.36
High Div	143.3	152.3	..	7.08
High Inc	109.9	113.3e	..	7.10
Intl	252.3	268.1	..	1.88
Intl Inc	62.22	66.12	..	6.63
Pacific	33.18	35.25	..	0.43
Smlr Jap Cos	56.85	60.26	..	0.00
Tokyo	171.8	182.1	..	0.00
Ex Inc 2	135.7	143.8	..	5.89
Ex Jap 3	114.3	117.4	..	0.19
Ex Smlr Jap 4	487.1	510.8	+11.9	0.08
EAGLE STAR UNIT TRUST MANAGERS				
Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53 7LG Tel: 0242 577933				
Grwth Op Acc	34.78	38.25	+0.28	1.46
Japanese	51.55	54.85	+0.01	0.00
UK Smlr Cos	61.70	67.58	-0.44	3.56
Do Acc	102.0	108.5	-0.6	3.56
UK Gth Accum	146.8	156.2	-0.5	2.29
UK Hi Inc	111.9	119.0	-0.2	5.85
UK Hi Inc Acc	115.7	123.1	-0.2	5.85
N Amer Acc	68.78	74.25	-0.17	1.28
Euro Acc	101.6	108.1	+0.5	0.26
UK Gilt/Fi Inc	64.15	67.48	-0.04	8.29
Do Acc	75.04	78.93	-0.05	8.29
Int Sp S Acc	37.62	40.02	-0.03	0.83
Emerging Opp	52.04	55.36	+0.23	1.45
ENDURANCE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD				
41, Hanover Gardens London SW7 4JU				
Tel: 071 373 7291				
Endurance	137.7	146.4	+4.7	2.46
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
Walton Street Aylesbury, HP21 7QW Tel: 0296 431680				
Eqtble Pelican	104.8	110.3	..	4.81
High Inc	109.2	113.9	..	6.57
Gt/Fxd Interest	48.16	50.69	..	9.47
Ty Of Inc Tru	94.0	100.4p	..	5.22
Spec Sits	55.10	100.1	..	4.55
N Am	85.69	89.36	..	1.38
Far East	185.1	198.4	..	1.47
Intl Gth	72.78	76.59	..	2.84
Euro	54.52	57.39	..	1.57
Smlr Cos	53.26	56.08	..	5.71
EQUITY & LAW				
20, George Hse Corporation St. Coventry CV1 1BD Tel: 0203 553291				
UK Gth Accum	247.8	263.6	-2.7	3.75
Do Inc	169.3	201.4	-2.0	3.75
Higher Inc Acc	441.0	469.2	-3.2	5.48
Do Inc	284.5	217.8	-2.1	5.48
Gbl/Fixd Acc	131.3	138.8e	-0.1	9.32
Do Inc	78.95	83.11e	-0.07	9.32
N America	142.6	151.8	+0.4	0.00
Far East	209.0	222.4	+1.9	0.00
Europe	209.9	223.4e	-0.7	0.50
Gen'l	348.1	371.4e	-9.4	3.84
Gen'l Acc	341.6	363.5e	-3.2	3.84
Br Excellence	58.5	62.3e	-0.3	5.84
Br Fdmtls Inc	57.08	60.73e	-0.27	6.67
Do Acc	65.64	69.83e	-0.32	6.67
Global Ops	53.41	56.82	+0.08	0.45
FS INVESTMENT MANAGERS				
155, West George St, Glasgow G2 2PA Tel: 041-332 3122				
Balan Gdn Acc	77.04	82.39	-1.99	3.15
Do Inc	72.23	77.32	-1.90	3.15
High Yield Acc	40.09	42.86	-0.19	5.12
Do Inc	32.40	34.65	-0.15	5.12
Inc Gth Acc	62.21	66.53	-0.31	5.26
Do Inc	52.21	55.78	-0.25	5.26
Service Co Acc	61.55	65.93	-0.31	2.85
Do Inc	59.19	63.34	-0.29	2.85
Am Gth Acc	28.30	30.28	..	2.11
Do Inc	26.70	28.57	..	2.11
Euro Gth Acc	26.51	28.36e	-0.18	1.43
Do Inc	25.01	27.52e	-0.17	1.43
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVICES LTD				
Oakhill House, 130 Tonbridge Road Hildenborough Kent TN11 9DZ Tel: 0800 414191				
American	138.6	147.9	-0.5	0.00
Cash Unit	128.34	⊕	+0.04	13.76
European	99.63	106.1	+0.39	0.05
Global	127.8	137.1	-0.4	4.67
Inc Plus	106.5	116.4p	+0.2	6.84
UK Gth	50.52	53.97	-0.01	0.00
FOREIGN & COLONIAL				
Bk Plain, Eastfield Hse Princess Street London EC2A 2NT Tel: 071-628 8000				
Euro Income	81.07	86.39e	-0.25	2.83
Far East	113.2	120.7	+0.4	0.00
Group Income	69.63	74.25e	+0.21	4.39
UK Growth	72.94	78.01	-1.13	2.82
UK Inc Fund	104.5	111.8	..	5.57
US Smlr Cos	108.9	117.3	+0.5	0.00
FRANKLINGTON UNIT MANAGERS				
155 Gresham Street London EC2V 7PT Tel: 071-374 4136				
Am Smlr Cos	222.6	238.7	+1.5	..
Do Acc	227.4	241.8	+1.5	..
Am Trend Inc	23.3	24.1	+0.2	..
Do Acc	22.0	23.1	+0.0	..
Capit Inc	228.1	242.6e	-0.1	4.08
Do Acc	236.4	251.4e	-0.2	4.08
Cont Smlr Inc	41.53	44.58	-0.02	0.00
Do Acc	41.53	44.56	-0.02	0.00
Conv Inc	99.23	105.8	+0.58	8.07
Do Acc	183.8	174.3	+1.0	8.07
Euro Inc	89.10	95.42	+0.62	1.04
Do Acc	90.48	96.67	+0.63	1.04
Extra Inc Inc	72.61	77.26	-0.17	5.29
Do Acc	312.5	332.7	-0.9	5.29
Inc Trust	67.68	61.35	+0.16	1.81
Do Acc	58.38	59.38	+0.16	1.81
Int Trust	161.0	171.2	-4.4	0.00
Do Acc	202.0	214.9	-5.7	0.74
Intl Gth	198.4	212.3	+0.3	..

A budget for borrowers?

COMMENT

PETER BIRCH

Home owners faced a difficult year in 1990: high interest rates and rising unemployment have affected lenders and borrowers alike. However, the outlook is not all bad — cuts in mortgage rates were announced on February 27, and at least one further cut is likely before the summer, leading to increased activity in the housing market.

Perhaps the worst news has been the number of people who are behind with their payments or who have lost their homes as a result. According to the Council of Mortgage Lenders, the number of dwellings taken into possession rose to 43,890 last year, compared with 15,810 in 1989. This figure represents 0.47 per cent of all loans outstanding. The number six to 12 months in arrears rose to 123,110 (1.31 per cent of the total) at the end of December, compared with 87,790 at the end of June.

These figures indicate a heartbreaking situation for many individual borrowers, and most lenders are sympathetic to people with genuine repayment difficulties. But how can the Chancellor help matters in his forthcoming Budget? There are steps that the government could take to ease home buyers' difficulties. Miras, mortgage interest relief at source, has been much in the news of late.

A survey conducted by *The Times* in January showed that higher Miras was the concession that people most wanted to see in the Budget. Miras already costs the government £8 billion a year and it has been suggested that the tax system favours borrowers to the detriment of savers.

The introduction of tax exempt special savings accounts (Tessas) and the increasing of personal equity plan (Pep) levels have helped to correct this imbalance. But if we look at the origins of Miras and what it was intended to achieve, it becomes clear that it is no longer the bonus to home buyers that it was. Originally, tax relief was available for the full amount of the loan, but this was restricted to £25,000 in 1974. In 1983, the limit was raised to £30,000, where it has remained ever since. The aim was to encourage people to buy their own homes and make it easier for them to meet the monthly mortgage payments.

In this respect it could be said to have been successful: Britain now has 67 per cent owner-occupation. Over a number of years, though, the increase in house prices and year-on-year inflation have negated some of Miras's value. But Miras is still important for the ordinary buyer and it is inappropriate to talk of reducing it at present, not least because of the adverse impact of interest rates that remain historically high.

Some commentators have suggested systems of reducing Miras throughout the period of a loan, or throughout the life of a borrower. Such schemes are difficult to administer and likely to lead to further distortions in the housing market. I believe that it would be inappropriate to tamper so fundamentally with a system that has become well established and on which so many rely.

Two other issues have been raised in discussions on the Budget: capital gains tax and stamp duty. Making house sales subject to capital gains tax was the change that people least wanted, according to *The Times* survey. It is important that capital gains tax exemption be allowed to continue to ensure that ease of mobility, an important feature of a successful economy, is maintained.

The abolition of stamp duty for share transactions was announced in last year's Budget, and there is no reason why this could not be applied to homes as well. A minimum first step would be a £30,000 allowance rather than an exemption, meaning that buyers would pay 1 per cent on the amount over £30,000 rather than1 per cent on the total house price.

This year promises to be a better year for home owners. Abbey National and other big lenders announced cuts in their mortgage rates in February, and further reductions are expected during the year. Sustained high interest rates have helped restrain personal borrowing, and it is unlikely that we will see a return to the buying spree experienced in 1988. The Chancellor is only too aware of the need for prudence: home buyers cannot expect a windfall in the 1991 Budget. The best borrowers and lenders can hope for is a further cut in the base rate and the maintaining of concessions to homebuyers such as Miras and exemption from capital gains tax, with the hope of some reduction in the impact of stamp duty.

Peter Birch is chief executive of Abbey National.

Tax net closes on evaders

By ANNE CABORN

LAST year the Inland Revenue recovered £2.9 billion in unpaid tax, interest and penalties, the equivalent of 2p on the basic rate of income tax. The figure is enough to send a ripple of unease through Britain's black economy, which stretches from the street trader to the not-so-small businessman and fee-charging professional.

Traditionally, the fiscal population divides into two distinct camps, the taxpayer and the non-complier. But there is a third category: a member of the black economy who wants to come in from the cold, but does not know how or fears the consequences.

"From time to time we'd get little envelopes full of what we called conscience money — no name or anything," said one ex-Inland Revenue employee. "It's silly because if that person is caught they can't say they've sent any money. There's no proof."

Mike Garnett, district inspector for Eastbourne, East Sussex, says that at any one time his area might have 160 income tax accounts, 25 companies and 70 "moonlighters" or "ghosts" under investigation. Moonlighters are people with an undeclared second source of income, while ghosts have no tax records. Out of that total, about ten would be people who had come forward voluntarily.

According to Jim Hudson, who is in charge of investigations in the area, they cover a broad cross-section of the black economy. "You get antique dealers, commission agents such as double glazing salesmen, draughtsmen and architects, musicians, publicans and landladies."

Aileen Barry who works in the tax investigation support service at Price Waterhouse, the accountant, gives another example: wealthy individuals who visit Britain for business reasons and find they have stayed long enough to become resident. "There is a steady demand for advice from people who want to legalise their tax affairs."

The category also includes businessmen seeking external finance and who therefore want their books in order, and people who want to put their affairs straight before retiring or who worry about leaving their children with a large tax bill when they die. Inland Revenue interest can be aroused when an estate turns out to be bigger than would be apparent from previous tax returns.

Celebrity tax cases can prick consciences, such as Lester Piggott's — he was jailed for tax offences — and Ken Dodd's, despite the fact he was cleared of the charges. It may just be local gossip that the Inland Revenue is investigating a particular trade, a chance remark in the pub, or even romance.

'There is a demand for advice from people who want to legalise their tax affairs'

For many people the biggest problem can be lack of records. The best place to start is by hiring a reputable accountant who will treat the matter in confidence and draft a fiscal history to present to the Revenue.

"There is no formula," said Tom Murray, partner with KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, Britain's largest accountancy practice. "You really need the assistance of someone who's prepared to spend time considering your business and finding some basis for a proposal.

"It's sometimes useful to see what the business is doing now, take a test period, keep pukka books and then have a look at the result."

An accountant will look at, not only probable earnings, but also allowances and expenses.

"If you're someone who has been understating takings year by year and disguising this, like as not you haven't been getting the appropriate tax advice," said Mr Murray.

When the case is put before the Inland Revenue it has to be evaluated and this can rely as much on personal judgment as verifying facts.

"When we come across something like this, our approach would normally be to invite the taxpayer in for a discussion," said Mr Garnett. "The tax system rests on the principle that it is only the taxpayer who is in full knowledge of his or her income.

"We normally only resort to making an estimated assessment in circumstances where we can't get hold of the taxpayer or we're not getting co-operation."

The Revenue can go back 20 years if there is evidence of fraud or neglect but it is rare for it to do so, as the cost of such an intensive investigation can outweigh any tax recouped except in the most major of cases. For the small trader or workman, two to three years would be typical. Anything more than six years would be exceptional. The Inland Revenue rarely resorts to prosecution unless there is no alternative.

How much must eventually be paid is based on three factors: the final figure of tax owed, interest on that tax, and penalties. While voluntary disclosure cannot negate the tax or interest, it can have a significant effect on any penalties.

It is sensible to pay a sum of money "on account" when first approaching the Inland Revenue, as a sign of co-operation and in order to offset the interest element in any final settlement. Prompt payment is expected once a settlement has been arrived at, usually within 30 days.

MICHAEL POWELL

Under scrutiny: Jim Hudson, an Inland Revenue investigation manager, with case files he is currently examining

Billions lost in black economy

THE amount of income not disclosed to the Inland Revenue is impossible to assess with any degree of accuracy, according to Stephen Smith, deputy director of the Institute for Fiscal Studies and author of *Britain's Shadow Economy* (Anne Caborn writes).

"Our best guess was somewhere around 3 to 5 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), so 3 to 5 per cent of national income might be in the black economy. National income is probably about £500 billion, so it's perhaps £15 to £25 billion," says Mr Smith.

"The trouble is, as soon as you translate it into billions people start saying, 'well, how much tax revenue does this represent?' That's actually quite difficult to say because a lot of things might not happen if they were taxed.

"There might be fewer builders if all builders paid tax, or people might not spend money on them."

The £2.9 billion the Inland Revenue recouped in 1989-90 represented a 22 per cent increase on the previous year.

The actual financial return is probably much greater because people who have been investigated are more likely to pay their taxes in future years.

Research on businesses that have been investigated suggests this improvement is maintained for at least five years and effectively doubles the direct yield from investigations. It also deters potential non-compliers.

Revenue makes mistakes

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

BEING afraid of the Inland Revenue could cost taxpayers dearly. The Consumers' Association, which this week published the *Which? Tax-Savings Guide 1991*, gives warning that mistakes happen frequently and that taxpayers are put off too easily from having them put right.

Jo Hanks, a senior researcher, said: "People write to us because they are afraid of the Inland Revenue. They are put off by one negative letter and give up hope of getting what they want.

"We get instances where tax inspectors have got it wrong and we can quote the correct section of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act to get it sorted out." Ms Hanks said.

One couple was wrongly told that the married couple's allowance could not be transferred to the wife whereas the blind person's allowance could. However, any unused part of the married couple's allowance can be transferred to a wife by the husband. So can the blind allowance. Neil Kenworthy battled with the Inland Revenue for nearly five months over tax relief on his Business Expansion Scheme (BES) investments.

Hanks: 'people are afraid'

He put four lots of £10,000 in assured tenancy schemes in September 1988. Because the investments were made in the first half of the tax year he applied to set £5,000 against his income tax bill for the previous year under the carry-back rule. This left him free to put £5,000 in another scheme in March 1989 and remain within the £40,000 a year limit for tax relief.

The rule was introduced in April 1987 and Mr Kenworthy qualified because he had invested less than £35,000 in these schemes in 1987-8. Despite the advice of two accountants, it took almost five months and a letter from the Consumers' Association before he obtained the tax relief worth £2,000 on his later £5,000 investment.

In another case, the Revenue charged tax on a man's invalidity benefit, which is tax-free. His personal allowance was also £616 lower than it should have been.

When the Revenue makes a mistake in a notice of assessment, the document showing how an individual's tax bill is worked out and how much tax he or she has to pay, the taxpayer has little time to notice and have it changed. Anyone who thinks the figures are wrong has 30 days to appeal in writing.

After that time, the assessment becomes final and normally cannot be altered.

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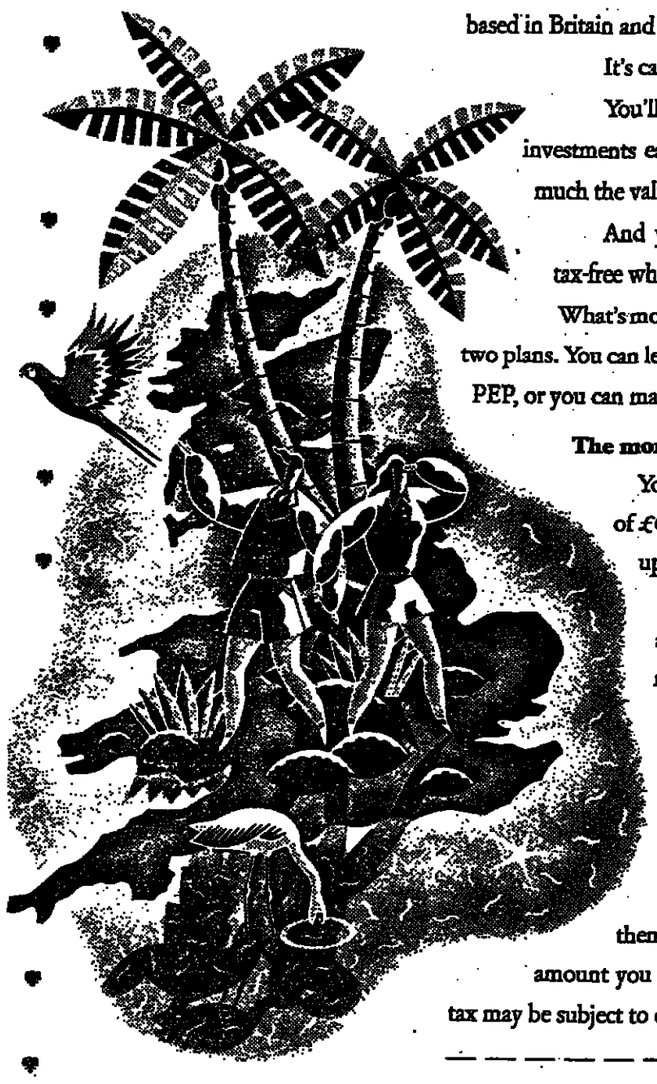

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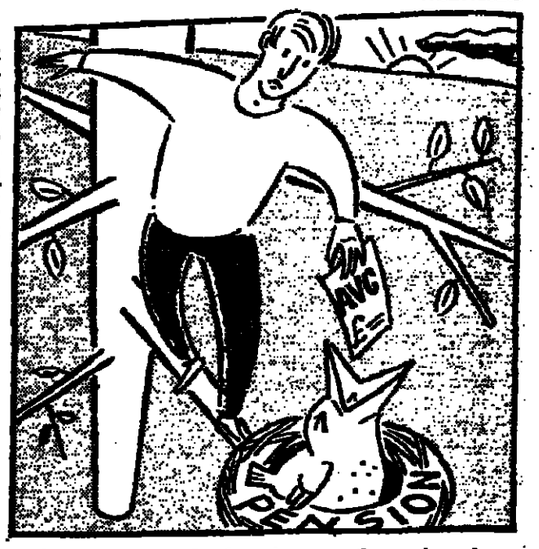
AVCs deny employees choice in retirement

By Helen Pridham



PAULA YOUENS

EMPLOYEES should think twice before making additional voluntary contributions (AVCs) to their company pension schemes. Putting aside extra money for retirement while working is an excellent idea, but the type of pension available and alternative methods of saving should be studied.

In the past AVCs have been neglected, but there are signs that the take-up among employees is now growing. One reason for this is that more insurance salesmen are promoting free-standing AVCs (FSAVCs), making people more aware of their company-sponsored AVCs. The employee does not have the cost of the salesman's commission deducted from his savings as with FSAVCs.

A potential disadvantage of company-sponsored AVCs, however, is the lack of freedom to choose the benefits provided for retirement.

Many employees wrongly assume that they have the right to make their own choice.

Roger Key, company pensions specialist at R. Watson & Sons, the consulting actuary, said: "The legal ownership of the AVC money passes to the trustees of the pension fund and it is up to them to do what they consider to be reasonable, bearing in mind the interests of all the members.

"Practice varies from scheme to scheme and members should check into this before they start making AVCs.

"Some are quite restrictive and will simply buy the member the same or similar benefits they would get under the main scheme. Others will give members a choice of options."

One recently retired employee, however, found that instead of receiving extra benefits on the lines of his main scheme, which included a pension for his wife if he died, his employer had bought him an extra pension that would never increase and had no dependant's pension.

Neil Crighton of Equitable Life, the leading insurer in the AVC market, believes that such practices are a thing of the past.

"Employers are recognising that employees need to be consulted and advised about the pension options available when they get near to retirement," he said. The main choices are between a level or an increasing annuity, and between one that provides a dependant's pension and one that does not. The table below shows that the highest initial pension is provided by the level annuity with no dependant's pension.

An annuity escalating at 5 per cent per annum would take seven years to overtake a level annuity. Therefore, it would probably only suit those in good health where there is a family history of longevity.

Annuity rates vary between insurance companies, which means that pensioners could receive a substantially higher pension from one company than from another.

But it appears that employers rarely bother to shop around for the best rates or investigate other possibilities, such as index-linked or with-profits annuities. Individual members could investigate for themselves.

Mr Crighton said: "If the member takes the initiative, I think the trustees would be hard pressed to ignore his or her wishes."

Those whose AVC contracts started before April 1987 have the option to take their AVCs as a tax-free cash lump sum. This is often the best course of action, as it means that the employer is legally obliged to increase the main scheme benefits provided by the pension each year in line with inflation, or by 5 per cent, whichever is less.

Mr Key believes, however, that those who have not yet embarked on an AVC scheme, should consider alternative forms of tax efficient savings, such as Tessas or Peps.

He said: "Like AVCs, Tessas and Peps are free of tax as they build up. The main difference is that with AVCs you get tax relief as you save but the pension you buy with them is subject to tax, whereas savings in Tessas and Peps have to be made out of taxed income but the proceeds are free of tax."

"It really depends on where you see tax rates going. If you believe they are relatively low now but likely to rise in the future, you may prefer to pay tax at today's rates and save through a Tessa or a Pep to be sure of tax-free cash in the future.

"What's more, they offer greater flexibility than an AVC scheme where you are locked into using the money towards your pension provision.

"Their lack of flexibility is also the reason why young people in their twenties and thirties should not be persuaded into tying savings up in AVCs."

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Source: Equitable Life

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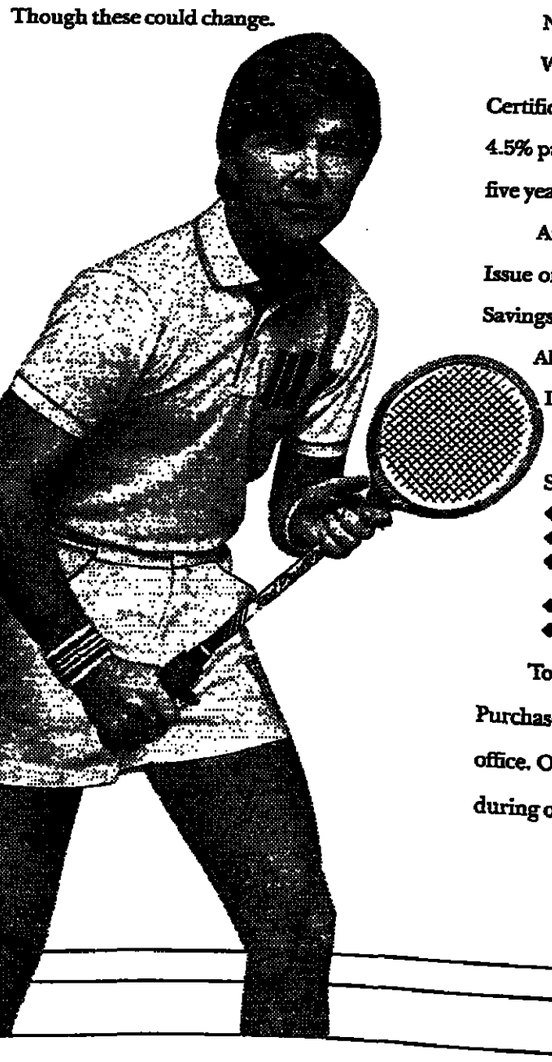

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Insurers 'should query sex lives'

By Sara McConnell

LIFE assurance applicants in "high risk" categories could find themselves being asked questions about their sexual behaviour rather than their sexual orientation if life offices adopt a suggestion from the Institute of Actuaries' working party on Aids.

The Institute of Actuaries said in its bulletin this week that there had been an "undisputed growth in the number of heterosexual cases and these look likely to make up an increasing proportion of cases in the future".

It added, however, that there was no evidence of a "heterosexual explosion" of Aids or HIV infection in Britain.

The bulletin said the lifestyle questionnaires would "gain in value and acceptability by a switch of emphasis from sexual orientation to sexual behaviour". Increasingly, it is the latter that is the determinant of the risk of infection, the bulletin added.

Life offices said asking more detailed questions would not mean a rise in standard premiums unless there was firmer evidence that Aids was becoming more widespread among heterosexuals.

Malcolm Dann, financial actuary at Eagle Star said: "We would normally expect to keep standard premiums the same. None of us knows how the disease is going to spread into the heterosexual community."

But he added: "Premium rates overall could change if Aids becomes more widespread."

The Terrence Higgins Trust, the Aids charity, welcomed the Institute's recommendation as a step in the right direction and said the logical extension of asking people about their sexual behaviour would be to require all applicants to fill in a supplementary questionnaire.

Jim Wilson, media resources officer, said: "The likelihood is that the lifestyle questionnaire will be extended to all applicants.

"If insurance companies are going to go with a questionnaire, this is the most logical way of doing it and is also the most non-discriminatory."

John Lockyer, chairman of the Institute of Actuaries' Aids working party said: "The insurance industry has correctly thought the Aids problem up until now is mainly confined to homosexuals.

"However, there is the possibility of its becoming more of a problem to the heterosexual community. If this is the case we would be asking about promiscuity for example."

Single men and those taking out policies with a large sum assured are already usually asked to fill in a supplementary questionnaire designed to identify high risks, although some life offices ask for less detail than others. The Institute of Actuaries said: "Typical requirements would be for a lifestyle questionnaire where sums assured exceed £10,000 in the case of a single male or £75,000 for married males and for an HIV antibody test where the sum assured exceeds £150,000 (single males) or £250,000 (married males and females)."

Most life offices ask if applicants are homosexual or bisexual. Intravenous drug users and haemophiliacs also have to identify themselves and applicants are asked whether they have sexual partners in these high risk categories.

However, all sides acknowledge that getting truthful answers to lifestyle questionnaires is difficult, particularly if people feel the questions are intrusive.

John Hylands, assistant general manager at Standard Life said: "Lifestyle questionnaires cause all sorts of problems and making changes along the lines suggested does not necessarily make things easier. It is as difficult to ask about sexual behaviour as about sexual orientation."

Lockyer: 'Heterosexuals may be at greater risk'

Lenders continue to cut mortgages

ANOTHER wave of interest rate reductions and fixed rate mortgages was announced this week following the 0.5 point cut in base rates last week. Most lenders shaved 0.75 of a point off the standard rate, immediately for new borrowers and from April 1 for existing borrowers (Liz Dolan writes).

Stroud and Swindon has reduced its standard mortgage rate by 0.75 per cent to 13.75 per cent. New borrowers receive a 1.25 per cent discount on the new rate for loans between 75 per cent and 90 per cent, and of 1.5 per cent on loans up to 75 per cent of the value of the property. The special rates will change in line with any more base rate variations during the term, which ends on March 1, 1992.

Lenders are still offering fixed rate mortgages, despite the likelihood of another rate cut. The practice of charging lower rates for higher loans has been turned on its head by two new capped rate mortgages from First Mortgage Securities. Loans below £75,000 are capped at 11.35 per cent, those above capped at 11.85 per cent. FMS says it has reversed the normal policy because it wants to help the "average borrower".

Centrust action group to question investors

By Sara McConnell

INVESTORS who together have lost at least £7 million through Centrust, the former Guardian Royal Exchange agent in Norwich, are forming an action group in a move to recoup their money.

Peter Buckell, chairman of the Centrust action group, said the group would be distributing a questionnaire to all traceable investors to establish how much money has been lost.

He expected at least 170 people to attend a meeting last night, but more may have been attracted by reports on local radio and television. The investors' group has discovered a Centrust client list of 800 people who will also be sent questionnaires.

Next week, the Centrust action group is meeting representatives of a similiar group set up to trace money invested with Roy Kissane, the former Royal Life agent, last October.

"We have a lot to learn from them and they have been very supportive," said Mr Buckell.

He added that at least four people were in danger of losing their homes and that several investors had lost up to £500,000 each.

Ron Elliott, detective chief inspector of the Yarmouth police, said Patrick Reynolds, who ran Centrust, was listed as a missing person.

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M&G

THE M&G PEP

Peace of mind worth charge

From E. Rosenstiel

Sir, Mr Leavor's problem of obtaining a prompt and valid acknowledgement, say for a premium paid to an insurance or life assurance company through a bank (Weekend Money, Feb 23), is easily solved. Although I retired many years ago, I continued the arrangement whereby my bank returns to me after the end of each month together with the bank statement all my paid cheques and other "vouchers".

More recently the bank introduced the modest charge of £1.50 per statement sheet for this service, a fee which I consider well worthwhile for the resulting peace of mind.

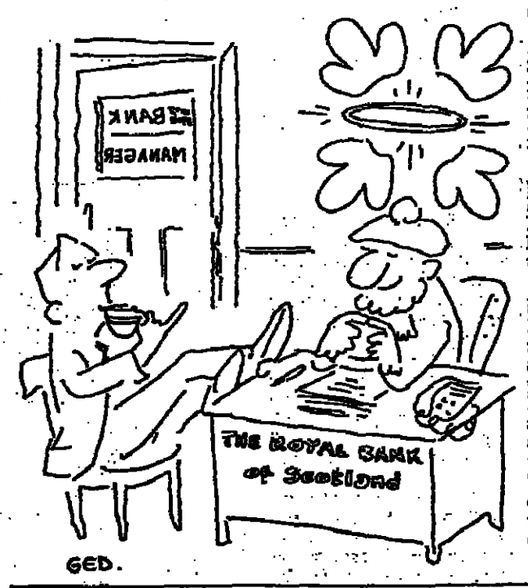
Yours faithfully,
E. ROSENSTIEL,
5a Mercier Road,
London SW1.

Children get Abbey habit

From Master Adam Taussik

Sir, The Abbey National is the building society for children. You can pay in small amounts. I paid in 50p on Saturday. You can't pay in lots of small change. There is a savers' club and bronze, silver and gold awards if you save enough. I have got my bronze and silver, my brother has got his gold award.

Yours faithfully,
ADAM TAUSSIK, aged 11,
4 Langstone Avenue,
Langstone, Havant,
Hampshire.



Investors have right to compensation where trust is misplaced

From Mr Antony Gold

Sir, As a solicitor acting for a number of groups of investors which have come into being following the collapse of the Fimbra members in whom they placed their money, I know that many of my clients disagree strongly with the comments made by Godfrey Jillings, the Chief Executive of Fimbra, (Weekend Money, March 2).

Mr Jillings' observations on the availability of compensation following financial collapses have caused particular concern. The thrust of Mr Jillings' argument seems to be that the investing public would make wiser investment decisions were the availability of compensation even more restricted than it is at present. That cannot be true. When the public invest their savings with Mr Jillings' members, the last thing on their mind is whether some sort of statutory safety net exists.

Indeed, there is little in the present scheme of compensation to give investors that sort of encouragement and I wonder whether Mr Jillings has any evidence at all to support his belief. Investors, in my experience, are far more circumspect and prudent than Mr Jillings suggests. One factor which undoubtedly affects their investment decisions is whether the adviser concerned is a member of an SRO, such as Fimbra.

Contrary to Mr Jillings' suggestion, the rules governing the Investors Compensation Scheme do not concern themselves with whether the investment was successful but with whether the adviser through whom the investment was made can honour its obligations.

In this respect, Fimbra is in a unique position. It, alone, has the opportunity to scrutinise applications for membership, to monitor closely the activities of its members and to take disciplinary action, where necessary, through the wide ranging powers it has at its disposal.

Compensation is available only where the member of an SRO, such as Fimbra, has been declared in default; that is, declared unable to meet its obligations to its investing clients.

Usually, this means that the trust which investors put in the firm concerned as a member of Fimbra has been shown, with hindsight, to have been misplaced, but not through any fault of the investor.

Surely Mr Jillings is not suggesting that investors are better placed to assess the trustworthiness of investment firms than Fimbra, their regulators? If an adviser controlled and regulated by Fimbra has failed, then investors would regard it as right and proper that compensation should be available to them.

Mr Jillings seeks to encourage confidence in the probity and competence of Fimbra's members. He cannot reasonably expect that confidence to be given unless he is prepared to accept the quid pro quo, namely that where trust in Fimbra members has proved misplaced there must be a ready acceptance by him of the right of investors to be paid compensation.

Yours faithfully,
ANTONY GOLD,
Alexander Tatham Solicitors
30 St Ann Street,
Manchester 2.

Change in banks was solution

From Mrs Gillian Balmforth

Sir, The idea of a promise to nationalise banks by Robin Bunnage (Weekend Money letters, March 2) forces me to reply indignantly.

The answer to customer problems is to change banks. I have done this twice from National Westminster to Lloyds and then from Lloyds to Royal Bank of Scotland.

I have banked with the latter for the past 12 years and have no hesitation in recommending my branch to anyone. Counter staff are plentiful, meaning I rarely have to queue up for service, I am advised by specialist staff as I need them, and my bank manager, instead of being "locked away behind steel doors", greeted me warmly into his office this week and offered me a cup of tea!

If at any time the manager is busy or unavailable a request to ring me at home is dealt with promptly and efficiently.

If customers do not get the service they want they have only themselves to blame. Competition between banks is fierce, and all managers recognize the importance of good customer relations and will do all they can to help.

Try telling them what you want, and they will be only too happy to assist. Can the same be said of some nationalised industries?

Yours faithfully,
GILLIAN E. BALMFORTH,
50 Psalter Lane,
Sheffield,
South Yorkshire.

From Mr G.A. Goodeve,

Sir, With reference to Mr Bunnage's letter (Weekend Money, March 2) in my experience, bank branch managers continue to remain freely available to their customers, a relatively small number of branches having "personal bankers".

As regards staffing, members of staff in small branches (under ten) have been falling. This will, no doubt, continue following recent announcements of job losses totalling 30,000 by the four major clearers.

And would nationalisation *really* improve matters? I suspect not.

Yours faithfully,
G.A. GOODEVE,
Gray-Ella,
319 Outwood Common Road,
Billericay,
Essex.

SIB decision

From the head of press, SIB

Sir, Your report (Weekend Money, March 2) said that the abolition of the "Buyers Guide" is being considered by the SIB. This is untrue. This is one of a number of options being considered by the Quality of Information Working Party, with other changes designed to ensure clear distinction of status. The working party has not yet reported to SIB, so SIB has had no opportunity to take a view on these questions; no decision has been taken to publish an interim report, in March. SIB remains committed to clear disclosure of an adviser's status.

Yours faithfully,
BETTY POWELL,
The Securities and Investments Board,
Gavrelle House,
2-14 Bunhill Row,
London EC1.

Credit balance

From C.L. Torrero

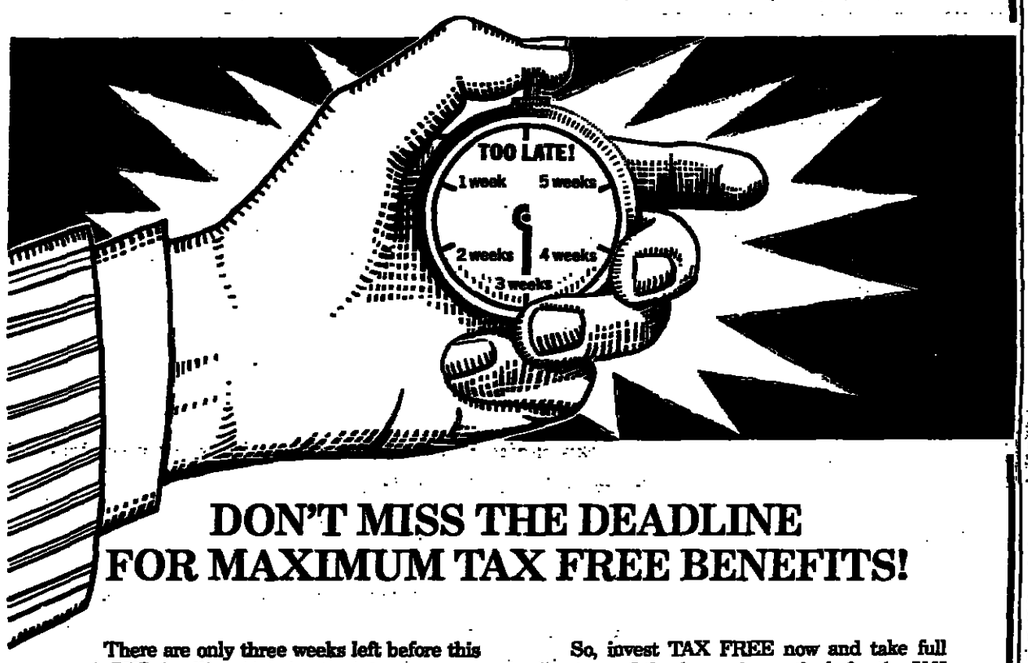
Sir, In common with many readers, I cut up my Barclaycard as I could get the same service for no charge from another Visa card. Barclaycard have now refunded my annual charge of £8 in the form of a credit balance. The question is: how do I make use of this credit as I no longer have a Barclaycard?

Yours faithfully,
C.L. TORRERO,
55 Pemberton Road,
London N4.

● *The Times* regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns.

MIM BRITANNIA – NO. 1 FOR PEPs

TIME IS RUNNING OUT.



DON'T MISS THE DEADLINE FOR MAXIMUM TAX FREE BENEFITS!

There are only three weeks left before this year's PEP deadline.

But with †MIM Britannia's TAXHAVEN HIGH INCOME plan, you can beat the PEP deadline and receive maximum TAX FREE benefits. With TaxHaven High Income you can receive a TAX FREE INCOME that can grow and grow to help give you the comfort and security you require, both now and in retirement. But hurry, applications must be received by March 28th, to allow for the seven day cooling-off period.

TaxHaven High Income is a share PEP (Personal Equity Plan) which invests directly in U.K. quoted shares. This means your investment will be:–

* FREE from Income Tax on your dividends (even for higher rate taxpayers).
* FREE from capital gains tax.

It can be as little as £2,000 or as much as £6,000.

Inflation and interest rates are already on the decline this year and the U.K. stockmarket is up by over 10% since the outbreak of the Gulf war in mid-January.

So, invest TAX FREE now and take full advantage of the improving outlook for the U.K. stockmarket.

Invest with MIM Britannia and you'll be investing with the U.K.'s No. 1 PEP Provider* Since April 1989 our award-winning company has attracted over £220m worth of new PEP business making us the leading PEP company.

Remember, share prices and the income from them, can go down as well as up and investors may not get back the amount they invested, particularly in the case of early surrender.

DON'T MISS OUT. Speak to your independent financial adviser or read the terms and conditions opposite carefully and complete the application form below and return it FREEPOST with your cheque TODAY!

†MIM Britannia is the business name for INVESCO MIM Management Limited, which is a member of IMRO and a subsidiary of INVESCO MIM PLC. Tax levels and reliefs are those currently applicable and may change. The value of any tax relief depends on personal circumstances.
*From 5.4.90 to 6.10.91.
Source: Best PEP Advice.

MIM BRITANNIA

TAXHAVEN
TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1 Definitions
(i) "Application Form" means the form of application approved by the Plan Manager as amended from time to time
(ii) "Investor" means the individual named in the Application Form as the applicant.
(iii) "Plan" means the INVESCO MIM Management Ltd Personal Equity Plan (PEP) taken out by the Investor and references to the Plan shall apply to all Plans established in accordance with these Terms and Conditions respectively
(iv) "Plan Manager" means INVESCO MIM Management Ltd which has been approved by the Commissioners of the Inland Revenue to act as a plan manager and which is a member of the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (IMRO) and as such the conduct of its investment business is regulated by IMRO.
(v) "Plan Statement" means a statement or statements issued in accordance with clause 4(iii)
(vi) "Regulations" means the Personal Equity Plan Regulations 1989 issued by H.M. Treasury (Statutory Instrument 1989 No 485) as amended from time to time.
(vii) "Tax Year" means the tax year from 6th April one year to 5th April in the next.
(viii) "Associated Company" means any holding company of the Plan Manager or a subsidiary of any such holding company (as such terms are defined in the Companies Act 1985)
(ix) "Trust" means the authorised unit trust operated by the Investor and which is managed by MIM Britannia (Unit Trust Managers) Limited, a member of IMRO, LAUTRO and the Unit Trust Association.

2 General
(i) INVESCO MIM Management Ltd shall act as plan manager for the Investor in order to provide the benefits of a Personal Equity Plan in accordance with the Regulations
(ii) All transactions between the Plan Manager and the Investor in relation to the Plan shall be subject to these Terms and Conditions.
(iii) Investors will not receive unsolicited calls from the Plan Manager. Application forms and cheques will be acknowledged or evidenced by the Plan Manager
(iv) The Plan Manager reserves the right from time to time to vary or amend the Terms and Conditions providing any amendment or variation does not result in the Plan ceasing to qualify under the Regulations. The Plan Manager will notify the investor in writing of any such changes.
(v) INVESCO MIM Management Ltd is an authorised person under the Financial Services Act 1986. Investors are entitled to the benefits of the Securities and Investment Board (S.I.B.) Compensation Scheme. Details of compensation rights can be obtained from the Plan Manager's Compliance Officer or direct from the S.I.B. Any complaints should be referred in writing to the Head of Investor Services, INVESCO MIM Management Ltd. For investigation. Investors also have the right to complain directly to IMRO or the Investment Referee.

3 Investment
(i) Investment in the Plan may be made with cash or cheques only
(ii) Investments may where relevant include securities issued by an Associated Company or securities of a company of which an Associated Company is a shareholder or adviser in the units in a unit trust or shares in an investment trust company managed by an Associated Company. The Plan Manager will where relevant, be entitled without prior disclosure or reference to the investor to effect or arrange investments or refrain of, or an associated company may be interested including where the Plan Manager or an Associated Company has underwritten managed or arranged an issue or offer for sale during the previous twelve months.
(iii) Distributions of income received within the Plan together with the appropriate tax credit and any interest arising in cash balances will be reinvested within the Plan unless otherwise agreed with the Investor
(iv) Actual yields could vary from estimates due to changes in the amounts and timing of company dividends. Income distributions on income paying PEPs will normally be made twice yearly on dates to be notified by the Plan Manager and which is expected to be within one month of the relevant distribution dates and may be subject to a minimum level of income available for distribution. The initial minimum figure is £10 (subject to change)
(v) All investments held under the Plan will be held in the name of the Plan Manager or a designated nominee who will normally be an associate of the Plan Manager. The Plan Manager will only accept liability for the negligence or default of their agents where they are Associated Companies.
(vi) The Investor will be the beneficial owner of all investments held within the Plan. All certificates and other documents evidencing title will be held by the Plan Manager or as it may direct.
(vii) The Plan Manager shall not be responsible for losses to Investors unless due to its negligence or wilful default. The Plan Manager has in effect professional negligence insurance which includes cash resulting from fraud, dishonesty or forgery by employees of the Plan Manager and its company in the sum of £5 million (subject to change).

4 Management
(i) Subject to compliance with the Regulations the Plan Manager may retain subscriptions pending investment or reinvestment and such money will be held in a Client Bank Account with the Royal Bank of Scotland Plc (or such other bank or authorised institution as the Plan Manager may from time to time nominate). Money held in the Plan pending investment or reinvestment will attract interest, at the best rate obtainable by the Plan Manager for the Investor which will be credited to the Plan.
(ii) The Investor will receive from the Plan Manager a valuation of the assets together with a statement of transactions as at the 5th April and 5th October or at such other date or dates as may be determined by the Plan Manager. Reports will be despatched to Investors within twenty-five business days from the valuation date
(iii) The Plan Manager will, on receipt of a written request to do so, supply to the Investor copies of all entries in the Plan Manager's books relating to the Investor. The Plan Manager reserves the right to make a charge for this service
(iv) Documents of title or certificates evidencing title will not be lent by the Plan Manager to a third party and money will not be borrowed on the Investor's behalf against the security of these investments, documents or property. The Plan Manager will not commit the Investor to any underwriting.
(v) The Investor hereby warrants to the Plan Manager that during the continuance of the Plan he/she will remain the sole beneficial owner of the assets held under the Plan free from any encumbrance or lien.
(vi) In the event that the tax-free benefit of the Scheme is withdrawn the Plan will continue to be managed by the Plan Manager. New Terms and Conditions will be sent to investors.
(vii) Management fees may be supplemented but will not be diluted by any other remuneration receivable by the Plan Manager in connection with transactions effected by the Plan Manager with or for the Investor under this or any other agreement
(viii) The Plan Manager is hereby authorised by the Investor to apply to the Inland Revenue to reclaim tax credits on all eligible income within the Plan and to make all other necessary claims for repayment of or credit against tax in respect of the Plan. For this purpose the Investor authorises the Plan Manager to provide the Inland Revenue with all relevant certificates and certificates as may be required under the Regulations. The Plan Manager may conduct appeals or agree on behalf of the Investor an indemnity to, and relevant from tax in respect of the Plan.

5 Instructions, Termination of Plans and Withdrawal of Cash
(i) The investor by giving written instructions to the Plan Manager may at any time –
(a) terminate the Plan (the withdrawal of assets to pay the market value of the assets at the current bid price less brokerage held within the Plan or (c) transfer assets held under the Plan in such case subject to any allowances or deductions which the Plan Manager may be entitled or bound to make authorised or under the Regulations. The Plan Manager will transfer the Plan to another plan manager if requested to do so in writing by the Investor (two month's notice will be required. At the discretion of the Plan Manager, the Plan may be kept open with a minimal fund in order to ensure that outstanding tax credits may be claimed from the Inland Revenue for the Investor's benefit
(ii) Withdrawal of the Plan shall be without prejudice to the completion of transactions within the Plan which have already been effected. A withdrawal may be made by the Plan Manager to comply with legislation
(iii) On death the plan will cease. All investments held under the Plan will be released (although without the tax benefits of the Plan) according instructions from the personal representatives of the deceased
(iv) The investor must immediately notify the Plan Manager if by any change in his circumstances he ceases to comply under the Regulations when the Plan will, if appropriate be terminated. The Plan Manager will notify the Investor if it becomes aware that the Plan has or will become void by reason of any failure to comply with the Regulations
(v) The Plan Manager will give written notification to the Investor of any intention to cease to act as plan manager or cease that the Investor can request that his Plan be transferred to another plan manager.
(vi) The Plan Manager may terminate the Plan at any time if sales or withdrawals of securities or cash reduce the value of any Plan commenced after 1.10.90 below £2,000. The Plan Manager will not, however, close the Plan if the reduction in value is due to a fall in value of the investments.
(vii) The Plan Manager reserves the right to pass on any expenses or costs incurred when transferring plans between plan managers.
(viii) Any instructions from the Investor to the Plan Manager are to be in writing addressed to PEP Administration, INVESCO MIM Management Ltd, 11 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4YR. No instructions will be accepted. Instructions not in accordance with these Terms and Conditions may be returned. The Plan Manager shall be entitled to rely on all instructions purporting to come from the investor

6 Cooling-Off Rights
No investment will take place until seven days after the Plan Manager receives the Application Form at its registered address (the "Cooling-Off Period").

7 Full Share PEPs
The Plan Manager will have authority to manage the Plan in its absolute discretion subject to the Regulations. It is normal policy of the Plan Manager to keep the Plan fully invested in shares listed on the recognised Stock Exchanges although investments may also be made in U.K. companies and trusts.
The Plan Manager or its associated companies may act as principal in selling to or buying from the Investor any investment held in the Plan and may period and contract market-dealings or other dealings in securities (including associated companies) to buy, sell and deal in securities in such transactions. The Plan Manager or such associated companies may retain all commissions, profits or remunerations derived from such transactions and shall not be liable to account to the Investor for the same.
The Plan Manager may transact business on behalf of the Investor with a person or persons who provide statistical research and other services to either the Plan Manager or any associated company without a payment to them of a fee. Any transaction with or through the agency of any such person will be effected for best execution (bearing any benefit which might accrue directly or indirectly to the Investor from these services or benefits under such an agreement)
On request and for an extra annual fee of £57.50 (inc VAT) you can receive company reports.
For an additional £57.50 (inc VAT) per annum you can attend AGM's and exercise your voting rights.
The Plan Manager will make an initial charge of 5 per cent and the current annual charge of 1½ per cent. These fees may be varied by the Plan Manager on three months' notice to investors. The Plan Manager will not levy charges for accounts or transfers within the Plan although the Plan will be responsible for brokerage costs. VAT and stamp duty will be charged in addition if applicable.
Commission: Independent Financial Advisers are entitled to receive from INVESCO MIM Management Limited commission at the rate of 3% of the plan investor's cash subscription.

WITHDRAWAL NOTICE

In accordance with the rules of IMRO, applicants are entitled to withdraw their applications within seven days of receipt thereof by the Plan Manager. In the event that you wish to cancel your application please complete the following notice.
I wish to cancel the application form for a MIM Britannia Personal Equity Plan and have my subscription returned forthwith.

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other _____ Surname _____ Initials _____
Address _____
_____ Postcode _____
Signature _____ Date _____

TAXHAVEN APPLICATION FORM

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS and check that you have provided full accurate details before sending to: MIM Britannia, FREEPOST, 11 Devonshire Square, London EC2B 2TT.
IF YOU WANT AN ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FORM FOR YOUR PARTNER, PLEASE CALL US ON 0800 010 333.

OFFICE USE ONLY
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100 110
100 119

1. INVESTMENT DETAILS
(Only one plan may be selected)
Please indicate your choice by ticking the relevant box. The minimum investment is £2,000 and the maximum is £6,345, which includes the Manager's initial charge of 5% + VAT. Please make your cheque payable to INVESCO MIM Management Limited.
Taxhaven High Income (reinvested income) ☐
or Taxhaven High Income (distributed income) ☐
I would like to invest (including charges) £

2. PERSONAL DETAILS
MIM PEP reference (if existing plan holder)
Title (Mr/Mrs/Ms/other)
Forenames
Surname
Permanent UK Address
(a "care of" address cannot be accepted)
Postcode
Telephone Number
Date of Birth
National Insurance* Number
or
Pension Number
Tax District and reference (if known)

3. CHECKLIST
Enclosed cheque made payable to INVESCO MIM Management Ltd? ☐
Chosen investment amount? ☐
Completed all personal details including National Insurance/Pension Number? ☐

NOW PLEASE READ AND SIGN THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION
I apply for a TAXHAVEN Personal Equity Plan for the current tax year. I confirm that I have read and understood the current brochure and agree to be bound by the Terms and Conditions. I declare that I am aged 18 or over, and I am a resident and ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom ('UK') for tax purposes or non-resident but performing duties which by virtue section 132 (4) (a) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 are treated as being performed in the UK, and that I HAVE MADE NO OTHER APPLICATION TO SUBSCRIBE TO ANOTHER PERSONAL EQUITY PLAN FOR THE TAX YEAR TO WHICH THIS APPLICATION RELATES.
I authorise INVESCO MIM Management Ltd. to hold my cash subscription, Plan investments, interest, distributions and any other rights or proceeds in respect of these investments and any other cash and to make on my behalf any claims for relief from tax in respect of my Plan investments to the Inland Revenue. I authorise INVESCO MIM Management Ltd. as Plan Manager on my written request to transfer or pay to me, as the case may be, Plan investments, interest, distributions, rights or other proceeds in respect of such investments or cash.
I declare that the information given in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and that I will inform INVESCO MIM Management Ltd. without delay of any change in my circumstances affecting any of the information given on the form.
Please note no interest will be paid on sums held by INVESCO MIM Management Ltd. during the statutory 7 day cooling-off period, pending commencement of the Plan and accordingly you will not receive the benefit of the Client Money Rules governing payment of interest.

Signature _____ Date _____

* Inland Revenue PEP regulations mean that we cannot accept this application without your National Insurance number or Pension number. Your National Insurance number can be found on your payslip, your tax return, your tax code notice or from your employer's personnel department.

YOUR MONEY & HOW TO KEEP IT IN THE FAMILY

Rising cost of living, taxes – is it any wonder that it's difficult to hold onto your money? Planning for the future is even more difficult.

"Arranging Your Affairs" is a practical 28 page guide to sorting out your finances – free from Allied Dunbar. It describes how you can control your money and keep it in the family. Ideas for today and plans for tomorrow.

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Alternatively, phone 0800 010500 (24hr answering service – no charge).

We will let you have details of our free Financial Health Check at the same time.

Please send WITHOUT OBLIGATION my copy of "Arranging your Affairs" and details of your free consultation service.

(Block Capitals please)
(Mr/Mrs/Miss) Initials _____ Name _____ TT 09/03/91
Address _____
Town _____
County _____ Post Code _____
Telephone (Home/Work) _____

NO STAMP NEEDED OR PHONE 0800 010500 (24 HOURS)

ALLIED DUNBAR
Member of LAUTRO

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at tax rates 25%	40%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Ordinary Dep A/cs						
Typical	2.98	3.02	2.41	none/none	7 day	——
Fixed Term Deposits:						
Barclays	8.91	8.91	7.13	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-626 1567
"	8.91	8.91	7.13	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-626 1567
Lloyds	8.20	8.20	6.56	2,500-no max	1 mth	Local Brnch
"	7.96	7.96	6.37	2,500-no max	6 mth	Local Brnch
Midland	8.53	8.53	6.82	10,000-no max	1 mth	071-260 2605
" " "	8.20	8.20	6.56	10,000-no max	3 mth	071-260 2605
NatWest	8.80	8.80	7.04	10,000-24,000	1 mth	071-726 1000
" " "	8.63	8.63	6.90	10,000-24,000	3 mth	071-726 1000
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS						
Bank of Scotland MMC	9.16	9.56	7.65	2,500‡	none	031-442 7777
Barclays Prime a/c	8.11	8.36	6.69	2,500‡	none	0604 232691
Co-operative Ultra	5.40	5.60	4.48	2,500‡	none	071 626 8543
Girobank	8.00	8.00	6.40	1,000‡	none	051 966 2076
Lloyds MCA	4.13	4.20	3.35	- 500‡	none	0272 433372
Midland HICA	8.06	8.21	6.57	2,000‡	none	——
NatWest Special Reserve	7.38	7.58	6.06	500‡	none	071-374 3374
Royal Bank of Scot Prem A/c	8.40	8.67	6.94	2,500	none	031-556 8555
TSB Bank HICA	7.01	7.01	5.61	2,000‡	none	071-600 6000
BUILDING SOCIETIES						
Ordinary Share A/c	5.50	5.50	4.40	1 min	none	——
Best buy — largest socs:						
Britannia	9.36	9.36	6.89	250 min	none	——
Portman	9.86	9.86	7.89	500 min	none	——
Cheltenham & Gl	11.03	11.03	8.33	2,500 min	none	——
West Bromwich	10.85	10.85	8.68	2,000 min	90 day	——
Bristol & West	12.00	12.00	9.60	25,000 min	1 year	——
Best buy — all socs:						
Cheltenham & Gl	11.03	11.03	8.82	2,500 min	none	——
Lancaster	10.70	10.70	8.56	10,000 min	30 day	——
Holmesdale Sav	10.60	10.60	8.70	500 min	60 day	——
Hendon	10.76	10.76	8.84	1,000 min	90 day	——
Lambeth	10.25	10.25	8.41	250 min	6 mths	——
Cash/Cheque Accounts:						
Halifax Card Cash	5.63	5.71	4.57	25 min		Rates rise
Alliance & Leic Cash Plus	6.25	6.25	5.00	25 min		with larger
Nationwide Anglia Flex	4.50	4.50	3.60	1 min		balances

Compiled by Chase de Vere Moneybox - call 071 404 5788 for further details

NATIONAL SAVINGS						
Ordinary A/c†	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555
Investment A/c*	12.75	9.56	7.65	5-25,000	1 mth	041-649-4555
Income Bond*	13.50	10.13	8.10	2,000-25,000	3 mth	0253 66151
Deposit Bond*□	13.50	10.13	8.10		3 mth	041-649-4555
35th Issue Cert*†	9.50	9.50	9.50	25-1,000	8 day	091-3984900
Yearly Plan†	9.50	9.50	9.50	20-200/mth	14 day	091-3984900
General Extension Rate†	5.01	5.01	5.01			
Capital Bond	13.00	9.75	7.80	100-100,000	5 yrs	041-649-4555
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS						
Liberty Life	10.00	10.00	8.50	25,000 min	1 yrs	Figures from
Financial Asa	9.60	9.60	8.16	5,000 min	2 yrs	Chase de
Liberty Life	9.70	9.70	8.25	25,000 min	3 yrs	Vere
Consolidated Life	9.50	9.50	8.08	2,000 min	4 yrs	071 404 5788
HB Samuel	9.50	9.50	8.08	5,000 min	5 yrs	for details

RPI (Jan. 89-90)	+9.0%	**Holiday rates**	**£ buys**
Bank Base Rate	13.0%	Spanish Pesetas:	175.00
Personal Loan	24.9%	French Francs:	8.67
Credit Card	19.5-31%	Greek Drachms:	305.00
		Italian Lire:	2125.00

†2.5% for balances below £500, first £70 of interest tax free, instant access for withdrawals of £100 of less. ‡ Additional holdings up to £10,000 for investors re-investing proceeds of existing matured certificates. †Tax free. *Interest taxable paid gross. Higher rates for larger sums. □ No longer on sale

FIRST TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest Rate %	Loan Size	Max %	Notes
BUILDING SOCIETIES				
Britannia 0538 399399	11.75	negotiable	95	After 2% discount for first six months
Chelsea 0242 521391	12.00	negotiable	100	After 1.5% reduction to 31.12.91
Halifax 0274 734822	11.95	to £250K	95	Rate capped for first 6 months
BANKS				
TSB England & Wales 021 212 4545	11.95	negotiable	100	After 2% discount for first 6 months

Figures supplied by Step's Guides Ltd. Telephone 0733 68082.

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CHECK OUT EIG CAPITAL BOND — Past Performance

The table below shows the actual payouts achieved on a with-profits endowment policy taken out 10 years ago and maturing now. The endowment policy is similar to that used in the lump sum (Capital Bond). The figures are derived from an initial sum of £5,000 and the appropriate sum assured for each age.

Male Age on outset	34	44
Payout	£12,816	£12,761

Please remember that these figures do not relate to a lump sum Capital Bond – only to the endowment element. The performance of a lump sum (Capital Bond) will also depend upon interest rates at the outset. Past performance should not be used as a guide to future performance.

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Banks risk debt to give minors cheques

By Liz Dolan

LLOYDS has joined the growing number of banks prepared to issue cheque guarantee cards to 16 year olds, despite those under 18 years not being legally liable to repay their own debts.

In theory, issuing cheque cards to minors could result in new card holders running up a £1,500 overdraft, because each cheque book contains 30 cheques, guaranteed for up to £50 each.

National Westminster, Barclays and Midland offer a similar service already. In all the clearing banks cheque cards are issued at the discretion of the bank manager, but criteria vary.

Lloyds is prepared to issue cheque cards to school children and others not in full-time employment. "According to research, it is not uncommon for sixth formers in the South-east to be earning between £50 and £100 a week," a spokeswoman said.

Like Lloyds, National Westminster does not necessarily demand that customers under 18 are in salaried employment before issuing them with a cheque card.

The Midland, which has offered the service to 16 year olds since 1988, will only issue cards to those in salaried employment. A spokesman said that the bank had surprisingly few bad debt problems from minors, although he was not prepared to back up the claim with statistics. He pointed out that although banks had no legal redress, under age defaulters risked problems when trying to open bank accounts later on. "We find that today's teenagers are normally very responsible," he added.

Valuable lessons: a Yorkshire Bank school branch

Barclays issues Connect cards to qualifying customers aged less than 18. As well as operating as a cash and cheque card, Connect is a debit card, which is not subject to the £50 cheque guarantee limit.

The TSB has made a special effort to attract younger customers in recent years. But a spokeswoman said: "Our research shows that young people are frightened of debt. They don't want cheque cards and debit cards because they say they make access to their accounts too easy and too tempting."

The bank started issuing cheque guarantee cards to 16 year olds in 1987 but decided to end the practice last year for "99.9 per cent" of under 18s. None of the banks was prepared to reveal how many of their customers were under 18, far less how many held cheque accounts.

The situation may change when the banks' new code of practice is finalised later this year. A clause in the proposed code states that particular attention will be paid to young people to help prevent them from over-committing themselves.

Yorkshire Bank says it will not issue cheque guarantee cards to under 18s because of the legal situation, preferring to approach the youth market from different angles. Latest among these is a plan to set up fully-operative mini-branches in schools, run by the pupils, following the success of four pilot schemes.

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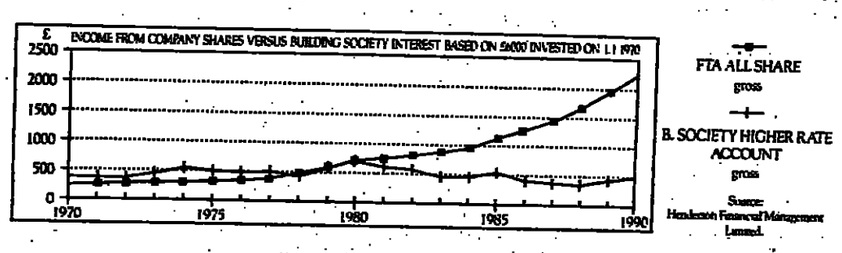

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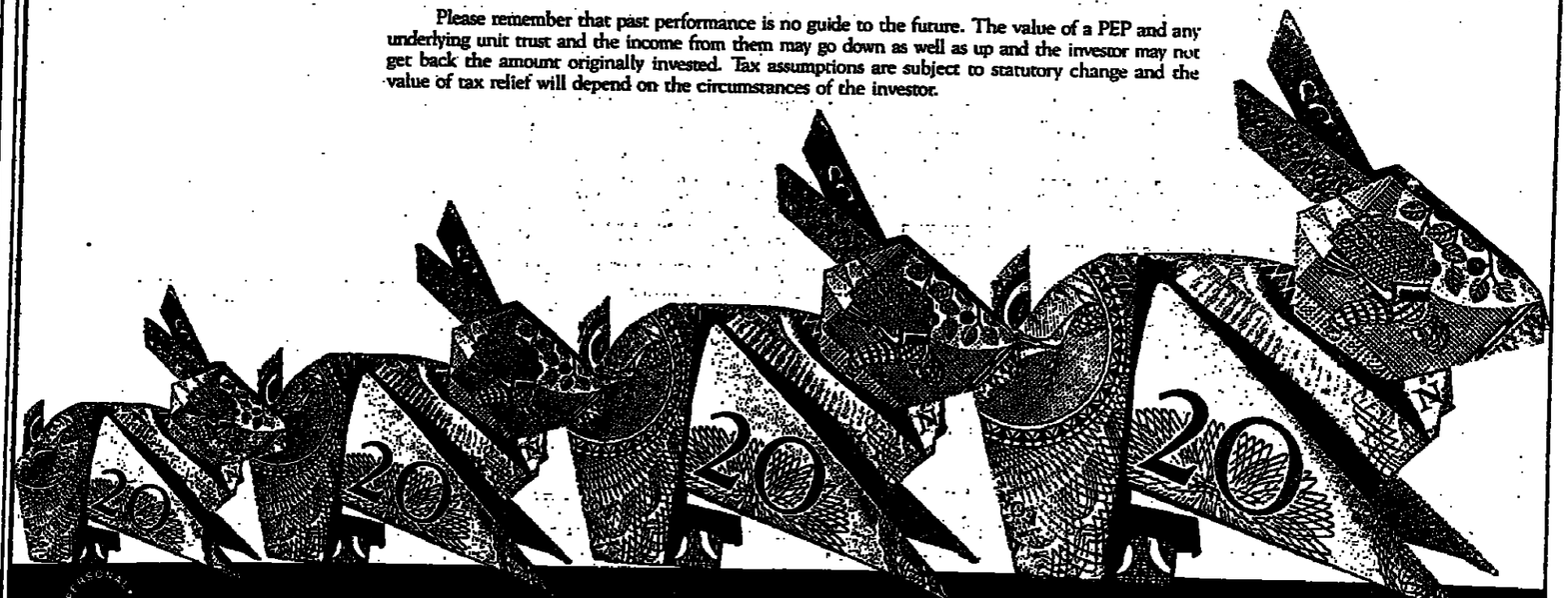

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No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	South West	Water	
2	Tomkins	Industrials S-Z	
3	Parkland 'A'	Textiles	
4	Pifco	Electricals	
5	Sund Chart	Banks,Discount	
6	Jarvis	Building,Roads	
7	Scot TV	Leisure	
8	Lex Service	Motors,Aircraft	
9	Richardson West	Industrials L-R	
10	Elec Data Process	Electricals	
11	Nat West	Banks,Discount	
12	Thames Water	Water	
13	Johnstone Press	Newspapers,Pub	
14	Richard (Leics)	Industrials L-R	
15	Shell	Oil,Gas	
16	Stag Furniture	Industrials S-Z	
17	FR Group	Motors,Aircraft	
18	MB-Caradon	Industrials L-R	
19	British Gas	Oil,Gas	
20	Scot & New	Breweries	
21	Berisford Intl	Foods	
22	Sthrn Water	Water	
23	Clubhouse Elec	Electricals	
24	Hewitt (J)	Industrials E-K	
25	Harrison Ind	Building,Roads	
26	Capital Radio	Leisure	
27	Ferguson Int	Paper,Print,Adv	
28	Mersey Docks	Transport	
29	Unilever	Industrials S-Z	
30	Magnolia	Industrials L-R	
31	Tilbury Group	Building,Roads	
32	Christies Int	Industrials A-D	
33	Admiral	Electricals	
34	Lovell (YJ)	Building,Roads	
35	Eurocopy	Industrials E-K	
36	Goal Pet	Oil,Gas	
37	Fletcher King	Property	
38	Reed Executive	Industrials L-R	
39	Peek	Electricals	
40	BBA	Industrials A-D	
41	Minet	Electricals	
42	Wessex Water	Water	
43	EMAP	Newspapers,Pub	
44	Slough Estates	Property	

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Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend							
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.							
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT		Weekly Total

Yesterday's £4,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won by Miss Bridget Aglen of London SW19.

BRITISH FUNDS

1990/91 High	Low	Stock	Price	Ch'ge	Int only yld%	Gross Red yld%
SHORTS (Under Five Years)						
99⅝	99⅝	Treas 3% 1991	99⅝	..	3.0	10.085
98⅝	98⅝	Fund 5¾% 1987-91	98⅝	●..	5.77	10.966
97⅞	97⅞	Treas 9% 1991	97⅞	..	8.17	11.000
99⅝	94⅞	Treas C 10% 1991	99⅝	..	10.0	11.971
101⅞	99⅝	Treas 11% 1991	101⅞	..	11.0	11.238
99⅝	92⅞	Treas 11¾% 1991	99⅝	..	0.00	0.000
93⅝	92⅞	Treas 3% 1992	93⅝	..	3.0	8.801
97⅞	95⅞	Treas 8% 1992	97⅞	●..	8.0	10.966
99⅝	97⅞	Treas 10% 1992	99⅝	..	10.0	10.000
99⅝	99⅝	Treas C10¼% 1992	99⅝	-⅛	10.5	10.810
102⅞	102	Exch 12¾% 1992	102	+⅛	12.0	12.708
102⅞	102	Exch 12¾% 1992	101⅞	..	12.0	12.708
104	99⅝	Treas 12½% 1992	103⅝	●..	12.0	10.696
92⅞	91⅞	Fund 9% 1993	92⅞	●..	8.46	9.251
99⅝	95⅝	Treas 8¾% 1993	99⅝	+⅛	8.5	10.322
99⅝	95⅝	Treas 10% 1993	99⅝	+⅛	9.5	10.340
104⅞	99⅝	Treas 12½% 1993	104⅞	+⅛	11.9	10.310
108⅞	94	Treas 13¾% 1993	107⅞	+⅛	12.7	10.282
99⅝	94⅞	Treas 8¾% 1994	99⅝	+⅛	8.6	10.215
99⅝	94⅞	Exch 9% 1994	99⅝	+⅛	9.0	10.065
99⅝	94	Treas 10% 1994	99⅝	+⅛	10.0	10.067
106⅞	94⅞	Exch 12¼% 1994	106⅞	+⅛	11.7	10.172
109	94⅞	Exch 13¼% 1994	108⅞	+⅛	12.4	10.179
111⅞	94⅞	Treas 14¾% 1994	110⅞	+⅛	13.0	10.113
97	72⅞	Gas 3% 1990-95	94	..	4.07	10.785
100⅞	98	Exch 10¼% 1995	100⅞	+⅛	10.1	10.062
108⅞	94⅞	Treas 12% 1995	105⅞	+⅛	11.3	10.084
108⅞	94⅞	Treas 12¾% 1995	109⅞	+⅛	11.8	10.102
FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS						
99⅝	92⅞	Treas 9% 1992-96	99⅝	●+⅛	9.3	9.833
100	93⅞	Conv 10% 1992	99⅝	+⅛	10.0	10.102
112⅞	99	Exch 13¼% 1996	111⅞	+⅛	11.7	10.296
112⅞	100⅞	Treas 14% 1996	110	..	12.3	10.473
94⅞	79⅞	Treas 8% 1997	93⅞	+⅛	9.3	10.050
102⅞	87⅞	Exch 10¼% 1997	101⅞	+⅛	10.3	10.140
112⅞	93⅞	Treas 13¾% 1997	112⅞	+⅛	11.7	10.391
122⅞	106⅞	Exch 15% 1997	121⅞	+⅛	12.3	10.436
95⅞	89	Treas 6¾% 1998-08	94⅞	..	7.9	9.718
98⅞	83⅞	Exch 9¾% 1998	97⅞	+⅛	9.9	10.140
108⅞	95⅞	Exch 13% 1998	108⅞	..	11.9	10.283
127⅞	107⅞	Treas 15¾% 1998	125⅞	● ..	12.2	10.342
97⅞	92	Treas 9¾% 1999	96⅞	..	9.8	10.088
101⅞	91⅞	Conv 10¾% 1999	100⅞	+⅛	10.3	10.216
102⅞	91⅞	Treas 10¾% 1999	101⅞	..	10.3	10.180
111⅞	94⅞	Exch 12¾% 1999	110⅞	●+⅛	11.6	10.305
94⅞	78⅞	Conv 9% 2000	94	..	9.5	10.019
116⅞	88⅞	Treas 13% 2000	116⅞	..	11.2	10.990
100⅞	84⅞	Exch 10½% 2001	99⅞	..	10.2	10.128
118⅞	97⅞	Treas 14% 1998-01	117⅞	+⅛	11.9	10.462
98⅞	81⅞	Treas 9¾% 2002	97⅞	..	10.0	10.136
100⅞	82⅞	Treas 10% 2003	99	●+⅛	10.0	10.125
119⅞	102	Treas 13¼% 2000-03	117⅞	..	0.00	0.000
58⅞	46⅞	Fund 3½% 1999-04	57⅞	+⅛	6.1	9.133
97	79⅞	Conv 9½% 2004	95⅞	..	9.9	10.080
100⅞	80⅞	Treas 11¾% 2001-04	107⅞	●+⅛	10.7	10.032
97⅞	79⅞	Conv 9½% 2005	95⅞	+⅛	9.9	10.072
118⅞	95⅞	Treas 12½% 2003-05	116⅞	..	10.7	10.184
OVER FIFTEEN YEARS						
95⅞	89⅞	Treas 8% 2003-06	94	●+⅛	9.5	10.037
99	79⅞	Conv 8¼% 2003	98⅞	+⅛	8.3	10.086
112⅞	95⅞	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	116⅞	+⅛	10.5	10.139
94⅞	77⅞	Conv 9% 2008	93⅞	●+⅛	9.6	9.798
123⅞	108⅞	Treas 13¾% 2004-06	123⅞	●+⅛	10.9	10.153
95⅞	86⅞	Conv 8% 2009	94⅞	+⅛	8.5	9.270
94⅞	77⅞	Conv 9% 2011	93	+⅛	9.6	9.815
93⅞	80⅞	Treas 8¾% 2006-12	93⅞	●..	8.8	9.739
92⅞	67⅞	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	91⅞	+⅛	8.5	9.533
131⅞	99⅞	Exch 12% 2013-17	119⅞	+⅛	10.0	9.833
UNDATED						
28⅞	23⅞	Consols 2½%	24⅞	●..		
61⅞	52⅞	Conv 3½%	55⅞	●..	6.0	
41	35⅞	Consols 4%	36⅞	..		
28⅞	23⅞	Treas 2½%	24⅞	●..		
38⅞	32⅞	Treas 3%	32⅞	●..		
39⅞	29⅞	War Ln 3½%	30⅞	..		
INDEX-LINKED						
127⅞	118	Treas IL 2% 1992	127	●		
117	108⅞	Treas IL 2% 1994	117			
171⅞	150⅞	Treas IL 2% 1996	170⅞	●		
146⅞	123⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2001	139⅞	-⅛		
136⅞	119⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2003	135⅞	-⅛		
137⅞	122	Treas IL 2½% 2006	137⅞	-⅛		
137	113⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2009	136⅞	-⅛		
131⅞	117⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2011	130⅞	-⅛		
118⅞	97⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2013	117⅞			
118⅞	106⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2016	118⅞	-⅛		
112⅞	100⅞	Treas IL 2½% 2020	111⅞	-⅛		
99⅞	89	Treas IL 2½% 2024	99⅞	-⅛		

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
278	173	Abbey National	271	273		12.7	4.7	9.4
202	159	Alex Hldgs	175	185	+2			
61	41	Associates (Henry)	59	61		2.1	4.0	11.6
163	121	Am Nat 'A'	138	138	-1			
108	84	Bankers Ivy	98					
298	230	Bank of Ireland	285	287				
194	154	Bank Lumni Israel	18	21				
340	264	Bank Leumi Isr	340	350●	-7	21.3	6.1	5.0
142	100	Bank Of Scotland	138	139	+1	6.8	4.9	8.8
34	30	Bank Of Wales	34	46		3.7	8.0	19.2
498	290	Barclays	482	484	+19	28.2	6.1	10.7
27	9	Beckfords	9	13		1.0	11.1	
355	195	Brown Shipley	235	238		10.7	4.7	7.4
163	124	Cater	15	199				2.8
480	295	Cater Allen	451	455	+3	20.5	7.3	11.5
71	38	Clifton	70	72	+3	4.9	6.9	10.5
177	29	Chancery	5					
218	54	Close Brothers	214					
184	94	Cosmo	94					
330	200	Coutts Bros	240	248		10.9	4.5	12.8
520	70	Commercial	119					
213⅞	188⅞	Dunbar Bank	225					
345	132	First Nat Fin	198	201		17.3	8.7	10.5
20	14	GPC	21	25				
340	262	Gerrard Nat	335	345		29.7	8.6	15.2
154	53	Guinness Mahon	69	75	+3	1.9	3.6	
338	195	Hambros	288	294	+4	15.9	5.5	9.3
356	39	HK Shanghai	38	40	+1			
470	330	Joseph (Leopold)	400	420		21.7	5.1	12.6
150	100	King & Shaxson	137	142		10.7	8.0	12.2
242	149	Kleinwort Benson	235	244	+7	21.3	5.9	9.1
372	222	Lloyds	360	363●		30.4	8.4	15.1
57	44	Lon Scot Bk	55	58●	+1	3.7	6.5	10.8
401	350	Midland	395	398	+5	12.0	6.1	
339	283	Nat Aust Bk	327	341	+1			
388	227	Nat West	380	383	+1	22.3	7.0	25.5
488	362	Provident	478	482●	+2	31.3	6.5	10.0

BREWERIES

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
544	408	Allied-Lyons	538	541	+6	23.4	4.3	11.3
1174	866	Bass	1094	1094		49.2	4.1	10.8
170	124	Buckleigh	152	156	-3	7.2	4.7	16.2
216	181	Bulmer (H P)	202	208	+3	10.4	4.9	16.2
227	165	Burtonwood Brew	132	140	-3	5.8	8.9	12.7
418	290	Clark (Matthew)	390	397●		18.0	4.6	13.7
206	115	Devenish (JA)	158	167		7.1	4.4	12.0
115	46	Fosters Brewing Gp	63	65●				
750	521	Grand Met	748	750●	+11	27.2	3.6	13.5
388	274	Grand Met	330	335	+8	13.3	4.0	12.8
425	313	Greene King	416	425	-3	13.8	3.2	16.1
850	650	Guinness	848	850	+24	23.7	2.8	17.9
608	476⅞	Hardy & Hansons	593	595	+3	44.7	4.5	11.6
397	302	Highland Dist	393	395	+2	8.4	2.4	33.2
188	120	Invergordon Dist	154	158	+1	8.7	4.3	13.8
448	375	Marstons	445	455		18.3	3.4	11.7
222	160	Morrison Thompson	207	210		5.8	2.7	17.0
280	240	Morland	270	285	+7	8.5	3.1	13.7
700	493	SA Breweries	750	770				
407	278	Scot & Newc	403	408	+9	16.7	4.1	14.4
329	174	Vaux Group	242	248	-3	11.7	4.8	12.7
448	340	Whitbread 'A'	433	436		20.4	4.2	13.8
44	17⅞	Do 'B'	31	33●		1.4	4.5	8.8
452	339	Wolverhamp & D	450	460	-2	12.4	2.7	12.9
465	359	Young 'A'	410	425		16.0	3.8	18.9

BUILDING, ROADS

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
130	40	Abbey	88	78	-4			
370	160	Amec	267	271	+4	13.0	4.8	7.9
132	17	Anglia Sec	18	20				
138	73	Ansells	128	130		6.6	5.2	2.5
531	182	Ashtead	223	228	+2	8.3	2.7	20.5
239	165	BPB Ind	228	230		16.0	6.5	10.2
184	69	Bardon (Hill)	128	132		4.3	3.2	11.8
71	35	Bailey (Geo) Const	37	40	-1	1.5	3.6	4.1
165	87	Beazer Group	140	143●	-1	5.1	3.6	13.9
216	57	Benall Dev	88	102	+4	12.0	12.0	10.3
174	92	Bennet PLC	135	138	+3	10.2	7.5	9.1
208	144	Bickerdyke	265	270	+5	14.7	5.5	14.4
21	9	Bobrich	16	17				
278	148	Bradley Gp	218	215	+1	6.6	3.0	14.4
142	105	Bell Bros	113	120	+1	8.5	7.1	9.1
155	87	Bickings	87	105		6.4	6.3	7.2
288	177	Blue Circle	224	227	+3	15.0	6.6	10.5
518	429	Bovis (Percy)	482	488	+8	29.3	6.0	12.8
125	69	Brandon PLC	92	100		8.0	8.3	10.8
185	93	Br Dredging	130	133	-1	8.3	7.0	8.4
119	72	Bryant	114	117●	-1	6.4	5.6	10.1
115	71	CALA	102	105	-1	4.5	4.3	13.7
298	187	CRH	258	267	+1			
68	33	Calderwood Robey	51	53	-1	3.7	6.5	
192	25	Carter Gp	42	52	-1	1.1	2.2	2.5
318	149	Costain	225	232	+4	10.3	4.5	11.3
231	62	Countryside	135	143●		6.5	4.8	
217	60	Crust Michelmt	112	115●	+6	10.2	8.9	20.5
103	50	Crosby James	65	73●	+4	3.0	4.3	2.9
158	102	Dean & Dawson	130	137	-1	5.1	3.7	7.7
453	295	Douglas (FW)	430	445		14.0	3.2	8.1
49⅞	28	Edbrook Hldgs	36⅞	38	-1	2.5	6.7	8.6
77	49	Ellis	72	77	-1	5.2	6.8	10.2
131	75	Emest	114	116		7.5	6.5	7.1
8	2	Fitzes Gp	4⅞	6				
104	38	Galliford	103	105	+1	5.7	5.5	12.9
88	55	Gibbs & Dandy Ord	70	80		2.7●	3.1	67.0
768	598	Glennie (AJ)	700	720		14.4	2.0	9.5
200	75	Graham Wood	105	115		10.7	6.7	3.3
182	49	Hanson Ind	85	88●	+6	8.5	9.6	5.2
208	130	Hanson-Green	188	190		8.5	4.5	7.2
399	198	Heywood Williams	288	295	-1	18.7	6.7	11.8
463	292	Higgs & Hill	375	383	-4	20.8	7.8	7.2
75	27½	How Gp	30	33		4.6	15.0	8.4
37	18	Howard Hldgs	19	22				10.6
151	77	Ibstock Johnsen	122	124●		6.0	4.9	8.4
125	51	Jarvis	82	85	+8	3.3	3.9	8.2
348	208	Laing (J)	328	332		17.3	5.2	9.4
99	30	Lilleshall (Hldgs)	57	59	+2	10.0	20.0	2.1
99	39	Lilley	57	59		3.3	5.7	8.1
254	103	Lovell (YJ)	185	188●	+5	11.5	6.4	11.1
208	133	Marley	152	155	+4	8.1	5.9	10.0
160	62	Marley	115	118	+2	8.5	7.3	7.7
134	70	Meadows	102	105●	-1	5.7	5.4	7.1
121	92	Monmouth (J)	118	123	+5	8.6	5.6	8.4
285	205	McAlpine (Alfred)	265	300●	+1	13.7	4.6	14.3
145	73	McCarthy & S	78	81	+1	1.3	1.6	
468	330	Miller Hall	337	440	-4	23.0	5.0	10.5
367	237	Mowlem (John)	319	323	+6	20.0	6.7	7.3
115	13	NMH	23	25●	+1	4.7	18.8	3.4
192	112	Newman Tonks	150	159●		12.4	7.9	10.1
281	193	Pentland	272	282	-1	9.5	3.4	11.7
119	34	Phoenix Timber	33	37		1.7	4.9	13.5
14	8½	Pochin	8½	10½	+½	20.0	3.5	5.6
195	114	Pountney	190	197		6.7	3.4	11.8
748	470	Ransome (JR)	720	727	-5	24.8	3.4	10.6
133	77	Rains Ind	123	125	+4	7.7	6.2	9.5
674	451	Redland	653	657	+1	32.1	4.9	11.4
199	100	Rugby Group	177	181		8.8	4.8	8.9
113	69	Sandiacre & Fisher	87	92		5.8	6.6	8.8
143	103	Sheffield Ind	135	140		8.8	4.9	10.9
182	153	Scott (J)	168	172		9.8	5.8	7.0
94	10½	Standa	16½	18	+½			
455	330	Steetley	409	417	+2	14.7	3.6	10.3
298	205	Tarmac	288	287	+8	15.9	5.6	8.4
194	79	Tay Homes	150	157		6.4	4.2	5.8
325	148	Taylor Woodrow	268	273	-1	12.2	4.6	11.0
704	407½	Tilbury Group	665	712	+4	48.3	6.8	7.8
231	159	Tomkins Plc	247	253	+1	14.7	5.8	10.3
111	43	Try Group	40	45		8.0	18.6	2.3
225	67	Turriff	84	92	+3	20.0	22.7	2.1
172	88	Wimpey	117	120	-3	4.8	4.0	5.8
253	115	Ward Group	153	158		6.0	3.9	8.4
100	48	Ward Hldgs	98	100●		3.5	3.5	23.3
447	315	Watts Blake	422	430		11.6	2.7	14.7
51	7	Wigdon	40	45	+1			
123	90	Wilson (Thos)	102	104		7.4	10.8	
218	141	Wilson (Connitt)	206	210	+1	4.7	2.3	11.6
108	49	Wimpey G	106	200	+1	14.0	7.0	6.7
105	36	YRM	65	70●		6.7	9.9	5.0

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
178	108	Allied Colloids	164	167	-1	4.3	2.6	16.1
407	245	Albright	382	390	+8	15.7	4.1	20.8
61	20½	Anglo Usd	33	34½●		1.9	5.8	8.2
198	131	BTP	183	187	-1	11.2	6.1	13.6
119⅞	88⅞	Bayer DM50						
194	104	Bigwin	173	175		12.5	7.2	10.3
187	121	Bond Chems	174	182	+5	10.1	5.8	12.2
540	35	Cabot Gp	65	68	-1	3.2	4.8	11.1
238	80	Canning (W)	142	148	+1	5.7	6.6	6.6
198	139	Croda	186	190	+2	14.7	7.8	10.7
230	157	Ellis & Everard	205	212●		9.4	4.5	12.7
20	14⅞	European Colour	16⅞	17		0.9	5.5	17.0
159	87	Fenner	128	129●	+1	8.6	7.0	10.0
237	163	Hickson (James)	208	213		14.0	6.6	7.0
245	162	Hickson (DWD)	178	185		11.0	7.8	9.9
113⅞	80⅞	Hoechst (DM50)	88⅞		+⅛			
124	85	Ind Chem Ind	95⅞	104		7.3	6.6	12.3
388	231	Laporte	378	382	+5	22.8	5.9	18.0
363	225	Leigh	333	335	+3	8.7	2.6	21.3
216	136	Mask Hydro	17					
380	250	Petrofina Zock	325	335		12.8	3.8	10.4
289	204⅞	Do 'A'	230	237		12.8	5.8	15.2
137	84	Pyrex	134	137	+1	5.1	3.8	10.8
382	198	Rolinco	366	369	-1	8.2	2.1	30.2
27	15	Sandiite Spolanem				2.7		
180	115	Tebbs	155	170		1.0	0.6	36.8
335	235	Wardle Storeys plc	297	305	+12	20.0	6.8	10.4
335	210	Wolverhampton Hldg	235	270	+3	21.7	8.3	7.1
486	280	Yorkshire Chem	407	412●		18.0	4.4	10.8
138	78	Yule Catto	124	128	+3	6.1	4.8	9.1

DRAPERY, STORES

1990/91 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
514	398	Alexon	497	503	+2	18.3	3.9	12.1
82	42½	Amber Day	51½	53½	+½	2.7	5.3	10.8
280	177	Argos Plc	263	266	+8	8.3	1.9	19.7
69	44	Ashley (Laura)	63	72				
420	365	Austin Reed	375	380		12.7	3.3	22.7
149	98	Bambers (Jersey) 'A'	132	137		6.9	5.7	11.8
182	124	Bentalls	162	167		8.8	5.4	10.9
62	29	Blacks Leis	53	58	-1	1.3	2.3	21.7
252	125	Body Shop	250	255	+2	1.5	0.6	50.8
73	35	Bonmarché				1.3		
724	23	Brown & Jackson	35	38●		2.4	6.7	5.0
213	130	Brown (N)	210	213		7.1	3.3	15.4
118	70	Burton	85	88	+⅛	8.0	9.4	8.9
152	112	Bush (Anthony) 'A'	132	137●		6.5	4.9	8.8
37	19	Clubet Plc	14½	15	+½			
475	280	Church	390	340		18.7	5.1	16.5
287	180	Coats Viyella	240	242		8.3	3.5	13.4
292	137	Comet Furnishers	203	210●		9.1	4.3	40.7
575	210	DAKS Simpson 'A'	565	585		13.7	2.7	14.5
54½	18	Dawsons (U)	19½	19½		1.5	7.9	8.0
387	113	Dixons Gp	777	770	+3	7.5	2.2	18.2
401	280	Dunelt	383	403	+3	6.1	2.0	17.6
47	11	EIA Gp	18	21	+1			65.7
1100	750	Ern (Montfabert)	780	800		20.0	2.7	15.6
171	84	Empire Stores	95	99				
185	52	Etam	122	125	+1	5.4	4.4	7.0
231	173	Fine Art Dev	203	208	+4	13.1	4.7	11.6
133	80	Free Earth Thos	78	82		5.2	6.3	8.5
380	331	Freemans	358	365		14.2	3.9	8.8
98	72	Gent GR	74	77		4.0	5.2	8.5
132	72	Gianfelice Group	98	102	+4	4.0	3.9	2.8
134	74⅞	GUS	115	116	+4⅛	47.8	3.4	14.6
124	80	Do 'A'	12	12½●		47.3	3.8	11.8
208	138	Harrisons				3.8		
38	12	Helene Plc	21	22		2.7	12.5	6.7
133	78	Hogg Robinson plc	133	136	+10	7.4	5.6	12.0
42	11	Hollis	15½	16½●		1.0	6.0	4.5
182	84	House Of Lorens	114	122		13.7	11.6	8.8
238	150	Jacques Vert	230	235●		13.5	5.8	13.5
280	207	Kingfisher	485	488	-5	15.6	3.2	19.6
79	61	Leslie Vitez Gp	70	73●		6.3	8.6	7.9
450	310	Liberty	415	440		8.3	1.9	16.3
288	182	Marks Spencer	248	249	+⅛	8.7	3.5	16.7
371	250	Mosaica (John)	332	338●		22.2	3.6	14.6
212	113	Mo

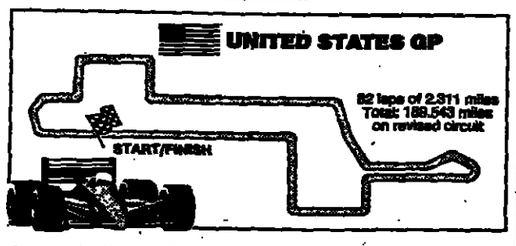
MOTOR RACING

Opening race that is not quite up everybody's street

From NORMAN HOWELL IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

THE MOOD is decidedly nervous here as the teams gather for tomorrow's United States grand prix, the opening race of the Formula One season, around the street circuit in this south-western city.

Already the drivers and managers of the leading teams are involved in "damage limitation speak": "well, it's a street circuit . . . it's the first race . . . the surface won't be grippy enough . . . we have detuned the engine for this race".



It does seem odd to start in Phoenix. The town is not exactly buzzing with excitement over this alien sport. And the road surface, especially during practice before enough rubber has been put down, is slippery and it is not uncommon for a large number of cars to slither and slide into the concrete walls.

The circuit has been modified to make it a little faster, though this is not welcomed by all drivers, mainly because of the walls: straw and tyres are easier on man and car.

Ken Tyrrell has the answer. "Where else can you race in warm weather?" he says. "This is a summer sport, all the winter testing is done in the mildest temperatures we can find. So it would be odd and awkward for the teams to start in Europe." The weather here is certainly pleasant, the temperature in the mid-seventies with clean, dry desert air. But the lack of atmosphere detracts from the spectacle.

There is also the question of how the new rule concerning drivers' discipline will influence the driving itself.

After a long meeting at which all the drivers were shown a compilation video of last year's accidents, it was announced that the race stewards will have the authority to penalise a driver deemed to have acted dangerously a maximum of 10 seconds.

This means that the car will have to come back to the pit lane, wait 10 seconds and then rejoin the race. Pit lanes vary, but most concurred that by the time the car has driven in, waited and taken off again, at least 40 seconds would pass. And no tyre-changing will be allowed on that lap.

Tyrrell was unimpressed: "Well, I can tell you that it won't happen very often and certainly not here." His loud laugh underlined what many of the older Formula One hands think of all this tinkering: it is a race, man on man, machine on machine.

The threat of penalties will not stop the duels that have riveted the public. And shunts will come, it is the nature of the sport.

But some of the younger drivers, such as Stefano Modena, the Italian in the Tyrrell team, guardedly welcome the new rules, "but only if they are properly administered".

This reference to a new safety commission which will oversee matters of discipline, and which has the power to overrule the race stewards, is a reflection of many drivers' feeling that politics will more often than not determine some of the decisions.

Ayrton Senna, the world champion, made some criticism, this time of another new set of rules which will make every race count for the world championship, and grant ten points for a win, instead of last season's nine. "Making all races score is unfair, because it could penalise a reliable fast team, and one which has had to drop one or two races through bad luck, such as a stone in the radiator," the Brazilian said.

Gerhard Berger, his McLaren team-mate, raised the same objection, possibly because this matter had been recently discussed by the team. But it does seem odd to complain about this rule. It encourages less tactical racing and more of the old-fashioned all-or-nothing that the spectators like.

Alain Prost, the French Ferrari driver who has been Senna's biggest rival, favoured the change that puts a higher premium on reliability. "I think it's a very good decision," he said. "The concept favours a driver going not only for the win, he must be also trying to finish all the races."

Prost said the changes in scoring would be good for the sport, for the drivers and much better for the spectators, who will know that every point earned from each race will count. "This year will be more interesting for everybody," he said.

The traditional Marlboro press conference, when most of the leading drivers appear, has become a hypnotic affair, with obvious questions being answered politely but dully. Senna, so attentive to his surroundings, tried to enliven proceedings.

When asked his opinion of Prost, Senna, as he often does, took a moment to think and then, in his most serious voice, said: "I think he is too short to be a great driver."

Duelling in the steps of Granger

LAURA THOMPSON

I once knew a man who was a fencer. He was also a Bulgar, a poet, a film producer, a scriptwriter and an actor. He occasionally appeared on television playing the part of a fencer, or of a fencing master. He never referred to himself as "I" but as "this citizen".

This citizen once spent an evening with him during which he read aloud from one of his film scripts. The central character was a noble and poetic Eastern European who was extremely good at fencing. He then read aloud to me all his poems, some of which made mention of fencing, although in the most oblique of terms via metaphors about thrusting and parrying.

Despite his theatrical bent, The Citizen was a real fencer, whereas all the other fencers of whom I had knowledge were real actors. Douglas Fairbanks, Errol Flynn, Basil Rathbone, Stewart Granger: they could all swashbuckle and, more important, they could all do it while backing up the flight of steps that scaled the outer wall of a castle.

And then, of course, there are theatre actors, all of whom have to learn to fence in preparation for the day when they are asked to play *Hamlet* for the Royal Shakespeare Company. Clink-clank-clink-clank . go the armoury props, as Hamlet fences with the fact that he has not stopped acting for three hours while Laertes has been doing crosswords with the Ghost in the Green Room.

My prior vision of the Challenge Martini International Epée fencing had been influenced by all of this and I was dashed to find that the event was taking place in a leisure centre, rather than in a courtyard with Stewart Granger steps from which the blood of old duels had been grimly scrubbed. I had also imagined myself sitting drinking lots of vermouth in the unwanted company of The Citizen.

This image was so strong that I felt cheated, when I was unable to perceive his bombastic appearance in the audience; although I should have known that he would be playing D'Artagnan upon a Sofian stage and that fencing inside a leisure centre would be anathema to him.

Actually, that was my feeling also. I have never liked leisure centres — they always remind me of why I dislike playing sport — all those witnesses to one's ineptitude, all that grind and imperfection that I do not want to know about; and I dislike them especially as venues for sporting events.

The Latchmere Leisure Centre, where Lloyd Honeyghan made his boxing comeback, was so non-atmospheric as to make the Barbican seem like Castle Rackrent. Fencing and leisure centres have essential styles which are surely doomed to clash with each other, like Tybalt and Romeo.

After all, fencing is glamorous, and so are its practitioners. The winner of the competition, Ulf Sandergren, of Sweden, was the object of a two-hour crush such as my mother would have had on Stewart Granger in *Scaramouche* had she not been the superior, astute type of teenager who went for Marlon Brando.

Hollywood was right to choose fencing as a way of enshrining cinematic heroes because it is breathtakingly skilful, it comes with its own dramatic clink-clank sound effects and any man that can do it looks extraordinarily dashing, unless he is José Ferrer.

Also, as with boxing, the scent of danger has not been rendered antiseptic by the dictates of sport: this is still man-to-man combat and the concentration could hardly have been greater if the fencers had been fighting for their lives instead of for some money, a trophy and a Nebuchadnezzar of Martini Bianco.

The glamour was mitigated somewhat by the fact that instead of plumed hats and big lace collars, the fencers wore white bodystockings that were divided into little segments, like a drawing of an insect in a child's biology book.

Instead of being able to clink-clank backwards up steps and leap from thence on to their opponents, they were restrained at the hip by long leads. And instead of an audience of handkerchief-clutching maidens plus the entire court of Denmark, they were watched by leisure centre types plus what looked like extras from *The Good Life* (attending a cocktail party held by Penelope Keith into which Richard Briers would barge with a pig under his arm).

The leisure centre types seemed to know about fencing, probably because they took leisure centre classes in it. *The Good Life* types seemed to know about fencing, probably because they had done it at school.

Both sets of people had that air of being Minor Sports Lovers, which I had detected before at real tennis and bowls: they have taken up something unusual as a hobby and thereafter their interest value will revolve around its arcane surprisingness.

Fencing, however, needs a resurgence of the swashbuckling cinematic tradition. I suggest a rewrite of Zorro in which, instead of the letter Z, The Citizen will carve a C into anything that takes his fancy, as a way of leaving his mark upon the world.

MARC ASPLAND

A touch of touché: cinematic heroics without the plumed hats in the Challenge Martini epée tournament

CYCLING

Brothers hoping for double

By PETER BRYAN

ALAN and Mark Gornall, as strong a brotherly racing combination as any in Britain, adopt a routine this weekend that last year brought them success. The Clitheroe Hill farmers have, as their main target tomorrow, Colchester Rovers' 80-mile road race, won last year by Alan, marking his reinstatement as an amateur.

He went clear in a solo bid 20 miles from the finish to win by more than two minutes, with his younger brother, Mark, in fourth place. The previous day, the pair had ridden the Coalville road race "because it was on our way south", Mark being runner-up and his brother sixth. Later in the season, Alan won the national 12-hour time trial title.

This weekend the pattern will be similar, with both events being ridden as hard as the pair can. The Colchester race is the more important of the two and may prove easier for the Gornalls than in 1990, as no professional teams have entered.

The pair, working during daylight hours, have had to contend with night training this week. Alan is the fitter; Mark has been lethargic for the last three weeks and fears that it will be towards the end of the month before he sees an improvement in his form.

ROWING

Top crew for Thames in women's race

THE four-and-a-quarter-mile women's head of the river from Mortlake to Putney today has attracted an entry of 161 eights (Mike Rosewell writes). . Although slightly down on last year, the numbers back up the view that rowing is the fastest growing women's sport in Britain.

Great Britain squad members will this year be racing in their club crews: Thames A, the No. 1 crew away, includes Kate Brownlow, Miriam Batten and Sue Key, all members of the 1990 world championships team. Thames, who admitted women through their portals 15 years ago, now have more women rowing than men and have seven crews in the race.

Oxford women's boat race crew and their reserves will start among the new entries at 104 and 122 but will not be opposed by their Cambridge counterparts, whose entry arrived too late. Oxford's main student opposition is likely to come from London University, who start fourth and are stroked by Cecilia Tindlund, a former Norwegian junior sculling champion. Strong Tideway Scullers and Kingston crews fill the second and third placings.

A GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

3.0 unless stated

FA Cup
Sixth round
Arsenal v Cambridge
Norwich v Nottm Forest

Barclays League
First division
Aston Villa v Luton
Chelsea v Manchester Utd
Crystal Palace v Southampton
Leeds Utd v Coventry
Manchester City v Liverpool
Sunderland v Sheffield Utd

Second division
Bristol City v Ipswich
Leicester v Hull
Middlesbrough v Oxford
Millwall v Brighton
Oldham v Bristol R
Portsmouth v Charlton
Port Vale v Blackburn
Sheffield Wed v West Bromwich
Watford v Newcastle
Wolves v Barnsley

Third division
Bolton v Fulham
Brentford v Stoke
Chester v Mansfield
Exeter v Bury
Grimsby v Southend
Huddersfield v Crewe
Preston v Leyton Orient
Reading v Tranmere
Rotherham v Birmingham
Swansea v Bournemouth
Wigan v Shrewsbury

Fourth division
Burnley v Gillingham
Chesterfield v Halifax
Hereford v Aldershot
Lincoln v Hartlepool
Maidstone v Blackpool
Northampton v Carlisle
Torquay v Darlington
Walsall v Cardiff
Wrexham v Rochdale
York v Peterborough

GM Vauxhall Conference
Bath v Stafford Ran
Boston v Sutton Utd
Colchester v Macclesfield
Fisher Ath v Northwich
Gateshead v Barnet
Merthyr v Kettering
Runcorn v Cheltenham
Telford v Kidderminster
Welling v Altrincham
Wycombe v Slough
Yeovil v Barrow

B and Q Scottish League
Premier division
Aberdeen v Dunfermline
Hibernian v Celtic
Rangers v Hearts
St Johnstone v Motherwell
St Mirren v Dundee Utd

First division
Clyde v Ayr Utd
Clydebank v Airdrie
Dundee v Brechin
Forfar v Falkirk
Hamilton v Meadowbank
Kilmarnock v Morton
Raith R v Partick

Second division
Albion R v Arbroath
Berwick v Cowdenbeath
East Fife v Stenhousemuir
E Stirling v Queens Park
Montrose v Stranraer
Queen of Sth v Alloa
Stirling A v Dumbarton

INTER-LEAGUE CUP: Fourth round: Southport v Matlock.

VAUXHALL LEAGUE: Premier division: Aylesbury v St Albans; Barking v Leyton-Wingate; Bishop's Stortford v Bognor; Grays v Dagenham; Harrow v Hendon; Hayes v Basingstoke; Kingstonian v Wivenhoe; Marlow v Woking; Redbridge Forest v Enfield; Staines v Wokingham; Windsor and Eton v Carshalton. First division: Aveley v Uxbridge; Boreham Wood v Tooting and Mitcham; Bromley v Hitchin; Chalfont St Peter v Harlow; Chesham v Dulwich; Croydon v Worthing; Lewes v Dorking; Metropolitan Police v Molesey; Walton and Hersham v Hayes; Wembley v Yeading; Whyteleafe v Southwick. Second division north: Basildon v Collier Row; Berkhamsted v Hemel Hempstead; Clapton v Tilbury; Edgware v Kingsbury; Hertford v Barton; Hornchurch v Royston; Purfleet v Billericay; Rainham v Witham; Saffron Walden v Ware; Tring v Finchley; Vauxhall Motors v Stevenage Borough. Second division south: Abingdon v Chertsey; Banstead Athletic v Feltham; Cove v Malden Vale; Epsom and Ewell v Eastbourne; Flackwell Heath v Bracknell; Hampton v Harefield; Horsham v Egham; Hungerford v Petersfield; Leatherhead v Camberley; Maidenhead v Ruislip Manor; Southall v Newbury.

NFS LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bangor City v Shepshed; Bishop Auckland v Morecambe; Droylsden v Marine; Gainsborough v Fleetwood; Goole v South Liverpool; Horwich v Chorley; Leek Town v Stalybridge; Witton v Buxton. First division: Bridlington Town v Newtown; Congleton v Winsford; Farsley Celtic v Curzon Ashton; Harrogate v Eastwood Town; Irlam v Worksop; Lancaster v Accrington Stanley; Netherfield v Rhyl; Radcliffe Borough v Altrincham; Warrington v Rossendale; Whitby Bay v Caernarfon; Workington v Emley.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bashley v Dartford; Burton v Poole; Cambridge City v VS Rugby; Dover v Atherstone; Farnborough v Rushden; Gloucester v Chelmsford; Gravesend v Bromsgrove; Halesowen v Crawley; Moor Green v Waterlooville; Weymouth v Wealdstone; Worcester v Dorchester. Midland division: Alvechurch v Hinckley Town; Barry v Redditch; Bilston v Grantham; King's Lynn v Hednesford; Newport AFC v Tamworth; Nuneaton Borough v Leicester Utd; RC Warwick v Bedworth; Spalding v Dudley; Stroud v Bridgnorth; Sutton Coldfield v Corby; Willenhall v Stourbridge. Southern division: Baldock v Canterbury; Buckingham v Fareham; Dunstable v Salisbury; Erith and Belvedere v Trowbridge; Hastings v Bury; Hythe v Andover; Newport IOW v Ashford; Sudbury v Gosport Borough; Witney v Burnham; Yate v Corinthian.

MASS IRISH CUP: Quarter-finals: Ards v Linfield; Crusaders v Portadown; Glenavon v Ballyclare; Larne v Glentoran.

ABACUS WELSH LEAGUE: National division: Abergavenny v Cwmbran; Briton Ferry v Ferndale; Haverfordwest v Maesteg; Llanelli v Brecon; Ton Pentre v Bridgend; Port Talbot v Aberystwyth.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnstaple v Exmouth; Bideford v Clevedon; Chard v Welton; Liskeard Athletic v Frome; Mangotsfield v Chippenham; Oldland v St Mary's Saltash; Taunton v Torrington; Plymouth Argyle v Paulton; Tiverton v Radstock.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Brantham Athletic v Wroxham; Clacton v March Town; Felixstowe v Thetford; Gorleston v Chatteris; Halstead v Walsoch; Harwich and Parkeston v Stowmarket; Tiptree v Great Yarmouth; Watton v Histon.

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Alnwick v Ferryhill Athletic; Brandon v Blyth Spartans; Gretna v Seaham Red Star; Murton v Whickham; Newcastle Blue Star v Durham; Shildon v Guisborough; Tow Law v Consett; Whitby v Peterlee Newtown.

BASS NORTH WEST COUNTIES: First division: Atherton LR v Vauxhall GM; Becup Borough v Flixton; Bootle v Nantwich; Colwyn Bay v Clitheroe; Darwen v Prescot; Eastwood Hanley v Ashton Utd; Maine Road v Knowsley; St Helens v Penrith; Skelmersdale v Leyland DAF.

LONDON OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Glyn Old Boys v Old Ignatians; Old Danes v Old Kingsburians; Old Suttonians v Latymer Old Boys; Chertsey Old Salesians v Old Aloysians; Enfield Old Grammarian v Cardinal Manning Old Boys.

WEEKLY WYNNER LEAGUE: Premier division: Belper v Thackley; Denby v North Ferriby; Guiseley v Winterton Rangers; Hemsworth Railway v Pontefract Col; Brigg v North Shields; Maltby MW v Sutton Town; Ossett Albion v Armthorpe Welfare; Spennymoor v Ossett Town.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Old Brentwoods v Old Chigwellians; Old Foresters v Old Carthusians; Lancing Old Boys v Old Salopians; Old Wellingburians v Old Meirionians. First division: Old Alleynians v Old Wykehamists; Old Ardinians v Old Westminsters; Old Cholmeleians v Old Etonians; Old Harrovians v Old Haileyburians.

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Quarter-final: Warrington v Widnes (2.15).

HOCKEY

NATIONWIDE ANGLIA CUP: Fifth Round: Hounslow v Doncaster (Feltham, 1.0); East Grinstead v Indian Gymkhana (Ardingly College, Haywards Heath, 1.45); Reading v Stourport (Bonning Lane, 12.0); Bromley v Ipsa (Edenbridge Leisure Centre, 11.0); Lyons v Havant (Havant College, 2.30).

TYPHOO NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Sutton Coldfield v Wimbledon (Cannock, 11.0); Hightown v Slough (Liverpool, 12.0); Ealing v Clifton (Dairy Meadow, Southall, 2.0); Ipswich v Doncaster (Ipswich, 2.30); Leicester v Chelmsford (Leicester, 2.30).

PIZZA EXPRESS LONDON LEAGUE: Premier division: Beckenham v Wimbledon; Cambridge University v Old Kingstonians; Cheam v Weybridge; Dulwich v Blackheath; London University v Purley; Tulse Hill v Surbiton.

PERONI SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier League: Bognor v Oxford Hawks; Eastcote v Camberley; High Wycombe v Fareham; Marden Russets v Chichester; Old Mid-Whitgiftians v Staines; Old Tauntonians v Anchorians; Winchester v Tunbridge Wells; Worthing v Bournemouth and West Hants. Regionals: Hampshire and Surrey: Epsom v Woking; Goan v Metropolitan Police; Hamble Old Boys v Basingstoke; Merton v Barnes; NatWest Bank v Walton; Old Edwardians v Fleet; Pirelli v Oxted; Southampton University v Old Walcountians. Kent and Sussex: Gravesend v Burnt Ash; Herne Bay v Lloyds Bank; Horsham v Old Williamsonians; Lewes v Eastbourne; Old Beccehamians v Midland Bank; Old Holcombeians v Old Bordenians; Rochester and Gillingham v Mid-Sussex; Tonbridge v Sevenoaks.

NORWICH UNION EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Bedford v Bishop's Stortford; Blueharts v Bury St Edmunds; Chelmsford v Wisbech; Crostyx v Colchester; Harleston Magpies v Norwich City; Ipswich v Cambridge Nomads; Pelicans v Ford; Peterborough v Westcliff.

ERNST AND YOUNG MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Beeston v Barford Tigers; Bloxwich v Olton and West Warwickshire; Coventry and North Warwickshire v John Player; Leicester Westleigh v Belper.

SUN LIFE WEST LEAGUE: Premier division: Bath Buccs v Bridgwater; Clevedon v Hereford; Otter Vale v Exeter Cricketers; Plymouth v Marlborough; Swindon v Gloucester City; West Gloucester v Exter University.

AW YARNS NORTHERN LEAGUE: Premier division: Alderley Edge v Formby; Ben Rhydding v Tynemouth; Brooklands v Stockton; Disley v Bowdon; Durham University v Sheffield; Hightown Northern v Rangemiks; Norton v Liverpool Sefton; Preston v Timperley.

TIPP-EX YORKSHIRE LEAGUE: Premier division: Appleby Frodingham v Harrogate; Bardsey v York; Bradford v Adel; Driffield v Lincoln; Fenley v Brigg; Grimsby v Huddersfield; Halifax v Chapeltown; Rotherham v York CS Trojans.

HALFPENN AND WOOLF NORTH WEST LEAGUE: Premier division: Cheetham Hill v Knutsford; Deeside Ramblers v Blackburn; Macclesfield v Manchester; Prescot v Oxton; Sale v Chester; Southport v Northop Hall; Springfields v Manchester YMCA; Wigan v West Derby.

RUGBY UNION

Courage Clubs Championship
First Division
Bath v Wasps
Bristol v Leicester
Liverpool St H v Nottingham
Northampton v Gloucester
Orrell v Moseley
Saracens v Rosslyn Park

Second division
Blackheath v Bedford
Coventry v Plymouth A
Headingley v L Irish
L Scottish v Rugby (2.30)
Newcastle G v Richmond
Waterloo v Sale

Third division
Askeans v Sheffield
Exeter v Roundhay
Fylde v Nuneaton
Met Police v Lydney
Morley v Vale of Lune
W Hartlepool v Broughton Pk

Fourth division north
Birmingham v Winnington Pk
Durham v Walsall
Harrogate v Stoke
Kendal v Stourbridge
Lichfield v Preston G
Otley v Hereford

Fourth division south
Basingstoke v Sudbury
Camborne v Maidenhead
Cheltenham v Redruth
Ealing v Maidstone
Havant v Southend
Weston-s-Mare v N Walsham

McEwen's Scottish League
First division
Currie v Stirling Co
Edinburgh A v Boroughmuir
Gala v Jed-Forest
Heriot's FP v Glasgow HK
Kelso v Edinburgh W
Melrose v Stewarts Mel
Selkirk v Hawick

Second division
Dunfermline v Langholm
Glasgow A v Corstorphine
Kilmarnock v Hillhead-J'hill
Kirkcaldy v Royal High
Preston Lodge v Ayr
Watsonians v Dundee HSFP
W of Scotland v Musselburgh

Heineken Welsh League
Premier division
Abertillery v Cardiff (2.30)
Bridgend v Newbridge (2.30)
Llanelli v Pontypool
Neath v Glamorgan W (2.30)
Pontypridd v Swansea (2.30)

First division
Cross Keys v Newport
Ebbw Vale v Aberavon (2.30)
Maesteg v Tredegar (2.30)
Penarth v Sth Wales Pol (2.30)

Club matches
L Welsh v Cambridge Univ (2.45)
Wakefield v Northern

SOUTH WEST: Courage Clubs Championship: First division: Barry Hill v Torquay; Bridgwater v Stroud; Gordon League v Reading; High Wycombe v St Ives; Metson v Taunton. Second division: Abbey v Redingensians; Banbury v Henley; Barnstaple v Newbury; Bournemouth v Oxford; Cinderford v Penryn. Western Counties: Avonmouth v Truro; Bridgwater v Tiverton; Clevedon v Launceston; Combe Down v Okehampton; Old Culverhayians v Penzance-Newlyn. Southern Counties: Aylesbury v Windsor; Bletchley v Swindon; Bracknell v Wimborne; Crowe v Sherborne; Slough v Swanage and Wareham. Cornwall and Devon: Bideford v Teignmouth; Crediton v Exmouth; Devon and Cornwall Police v Hayle; Devonport Services v Plymouth CS; Exeter Saracens v Skimouth. Cornwall: First division: Bodmin v Stithians; Bude v Veor; Falmouth v St Austell; Liskeard-Looe v Wadebridge; Roseland v Saltash. Devon: First division: Culmpton v Torres; Ilfracombe v Newton Abbot; Ivybridge v Topsham; Jesters v Plymouth Argaum; Paignton v South Molton. Gloucester and Somerset: Cirencester v Whitehall; Cleve v Oldfield Old Boys; Coney Hill v Frome; Dings Crusaders v Spartans; Drybrook v Midsomer Norton. Gloucestershire: First division: Ashley Down v Old Patesians; Brean v Widden Old Boys; Cheltenham North v Gloucester Old Boys; North Bristol v Brockworth; Saintbridge v St Mary's Old Boys. Somerset: First division: Bristol Hornets v Yeovil; Hornets v Old Sulians; Imperial v Yatton; Minehead v St Brendans Old Boys; Old Redcliffians v Wellcott Old Boys. Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire: First division: Beaconsfield v Pennanians; Chinnor v Olney; Didcot v Oxford Marathon; Drifters v Littlemore; Oxford Old Boys v Milton Keynes. Berkshire, Dorset and Wiltshire: First division: Aldermaston v Wootton Bassett; Dorking v Weymouth; Dorchester v Corsham; North Dorset v Melksham; Puckletown v Lytchett Minster.

MIDLANDS: Courage Clubs Championship: First division: Barker Butts v Pavlors; Camp Hill v Sutton Coldfield; Derby v Newark; Leighton Buzzard v Mansfield; Stockwood Park v Westleigh. Second division east: Biggleswade v Matlock; Kettering v Syston; Lincoln v Peterborough; Moderns v Vipers; Scunthorpe v Stewarts and Lloyds. Second division west: Bedworth v Old Yardleians; Dudley v Worcester; Keresley v Burton; Leamington v Bromsgrove; Newbold v Stafford. East Midlands and Leicestershire: Ampthill v Wellingborough; Aylestone St James v Coalville; Bedford Athletic v Stoneygate; Belgrave v Luton; Long Buckby v Lutterworth. North Midlands: First division: Aston OE v Luctonians; Dixonians v Woodrush; Evesham v Bridgnorth; Kings Norton v Whitchurch; Veseyans v Shrewsbury. Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire: First division: Amber Valley v Stanford; Nottingham Casuals v Kesteven; Southwell v Melton; Spalding v Stamford; Worksop v East Retford. Staffordshire and Warwickshire: Broad Street v Old Longtonians; Coventry Welsh v Uttoxeter; Leek v Newcastle (Staffs); Stratford-upon-Avon v Old Leamingtonians; Willenhall v Tamworth.

NORTH: Courage Clubs Championship: First division: Halifax v Rotherham; Hull Ionians v Bradford and Bingley; Middlesbrough v Birkenhead Park; Tynedale v Aspatria; Wigton v Widnes. Second division: Alnwick v New Brighton; Huddersfield v Carlisle; Lymm v Wharfedale; Sandal v West Park (St Helens); Sandbach v Wigan. North West: First division: Caldy v Rochdale; Davenport v Wirral; Egremont v Cockermouth; Macclesfield v Northwich; Netherhall v Sedgley Park. Second division: Ashton On Mersey v Blackburn; Chester v Old Aldwinians; St Edwards Old Boys v Merseyside Police; Southport v Warrington; Workington v Wilmslow. NW-East North: De la Salle v Furness; Kirkby Lonsdale v Morecby; Oldham v Old Salians; Vickers v Burnage; Windermere v Keswick. NW-West: First division: Douglas v Hoylake; Liverpool Collegiate v Old Instonians; Newton le Willows v Ruskin Park; Oldershaw v Ormskirk; South Liverpool v Vulcan. North East: First division: Blaydon v Brinsley; Gateshead Fell v Novocastrians; Roundhegians v Old Brodleians; Thorneyians v Keighley; York v Old Crossleyans. Second division: Beverley v Pontefract; Newcastle University v Ashington; Rockcliff v Old Hymerians; Westoe v Blyth; West Park Bramhope v Selby. Yorkshire: First division: Bridlington v North Ribbledale; Castleford v Hemsworth; Cleckheaton v Doncaster; Melton and Norton v York RI; Poddington v Barnsley. Durham and Northumberland: First division: Acklam v Redcar; Darlington v Sunderland; Darlington RA v Mowden Park; Ryton v Bishop Auckland; Whitley v Seghill. Club matches: Adwick v Wakefield XV; Chesterfield v Sheffield Oaks; Hullensians v Moortown; Kemal v Pt Sunlight; Northallerton XV v Rowntrees; Ripon v Driffield.

SCOTLAND: McEwen's League: Third division: Gordonians v Perthshire; Highworthies v Howe of Fife; Peebles v Highland; Stigear v Grangemouth; Aberdeen GSFP v Clarkston; Trinity Academicals v Portobello FP; Haddington v Dalziel HSFP. Fourth division: Weyslders v Penicuik; Cambuslang v East Kilbride; St Boswells v Lismore; Greenock Wanderers v Dumfries; Leith Academicals v Hutcheasons'-Aloysians; Edinburgh University v Certha. Queen's Park: Morgan Academy FP v Linlithgow. Fifth division: Aberdeenshire v North Berwick; Murrayfield v Livingston; Dunbar v Hillfoots; Ardrossan Academicals v Stewartry; Madras College FP v Glenrothes; Broughton FP v Paisley; Alloa v Moray. Sixth division: St Andrews University v Marr; Clydebank v Earlston; Drumpellier v Walkerburn; Aberdeen University v Cumbernauld; Harris Academy FP v Carnoustie HSFP; Falkirk v Leslie; Lasswade v Montrose. Seventh division: Rosyth and District v Dune; Blairmyre v Panmure; Strathmore v Ross High; Whitecraigs v Holy Cross; Gumnock v RAF Kinloss; Garioch v Gamock; Forrester FP v Irvine.

ALL IRELAND LEAGUE (qualifying competition): Dungannon v Galwegians (Ravenhill, 2.30); Blackrock College v Dolphin (Anglesey Road, 2.30). Senior club: Dublin University v Oxford University; Greystones v Clonmel; Monkstown v Wanderers; Old Wesley v Shannon; St Mary's College v Corinthians; Skerries v Bohemians; Garryowen v Terenure College (8.30); Old Crescent v Old Belvedere (3.30); Young Munster v Lansdowne (2.30); Armagh v Waterpark (2.30); Ballymena v DLSP (2.30); GYMS v City of Derry (2.30); Instonians v Collegians (2.30); Malone v Arda (2.30); MIFC v Constitution. Dudley Cup: Queen's University v University College Dublin (2.30).

WALES: Heineken League: Second division: Aberavon Harlequins v Dunvant; Blaina v Mountain Ash; Bonymaen v Rumney; Narberth v Wrexham; Treorchy v Llanharan. Third division: Blackwood v Kidwelly; Cilfynydd v Kenfig Hill; Llandovery v Pontypool Utd; Ruthin v Tenby Utd; Tumble v St Peters.

BASKETBALL

8.0 unless stated

CARLSBERG NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Leicester v Kingston (7.30); Manchester v Derby; Worthing v Hemel Hempstead. Second division: Bury v Oldham; Coventry v Broxbourne; Manchester v Birmingham; Plymouth v Cheshire (7.30); Watford v Doncaster. Third division: Chiltern v North London; Fylde v Birmingham; Greenwich v Cheshire (7.0); Leicester v Calderdale (5.0). Women: Manchester v Crystal Palace (4.0); Rhondda v London YMCA (6.0); Tyneside v Nottingham (7.45). Second division: Camberley v Hemel Hempstead (4.45); Harlesden v Northampton (6.0); Leicester v Sunderland (2.0); South Tyneside v Kirklees (6.0).

ICE HOCKEY

6.30 unless stated

HEINEKEN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardiff v Cleveland; Nottingham v Whitley; Peterborough v Durham. First division: Basingstoke v Medway (6.0); Lee Valley v Swindon (5.30); Telford v Humberside (7.30); Trafford v Slough (5.30).

ENGLISH LEAGUE: Milton Keynes v Oxford City (6.0); Sheffield v Blackburn (5.30); Sunderland v Richmond (5.30).

CAPITAL FOODS SCOTTISH CUP: Semi-finals: (at Murrayfield): Fife v Ayr (2.0); Murrayfield v Glasgow (6.30).

VOLLEYBALL

ROYAL BANK NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: Semi-finals: Team Mizuno Malory v Polonia (4.30); Reebok Liverpool City v Hilton Leeds (2.30). Women: Lakeland v Hilton Leeds (4.15); Sovereign Leasing Sale v Brixton Knights (6.30).

LACROSSE

BRINE NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Cheadle v Heaton Mersey; Old Stopfordians v Sale; Old Waconians v Sheffield University; Stockport v Old Hulmeians; Timperley v Sheffield Steelers.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Purley; Hampstead v Kenton; Hillcroft v Bath.

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: AAA-WAAA multi-event championships (Cosford).

BOWLS: English women's national indoor championships (Lawson Park, Bedford).

FENCING: British sabre championships (Ashton).

GYMNASTICS: Women's British championships (individual and apparatus) (Crawley).

RALLYING: RAC International Historic Rally of Great Britain (Bath to Torbay).

SWIMMING: Hepworth Building Products meet (Southampton).

TABLE TENNIS: English national championships (Stourbridge).

TENNIS: Serve and Volley LTA men's satellite circuit (Telford).

WRESTLING: English championships (Academy, Salford).

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

FA Cup
Sixth round
Tottenham v Notts County (3.05)

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bashley v Moor Green. Southern division: Margate v Trowbridge (11.30).

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: First round: Carndonagh v Limerick (2.30); Cork City v Bohemians; Drogheda v Parkville; Dundalk v Ashtown (3.30); Edenmore v Sligo (3.30); Galway v Cobh Rambler (3.30); Longford v Shelbourne (3.30); Mallow Utd v Athlone; Midleton v Bray Wanderers; Monaghan Utd v Elm Rovers (3.30); Portadown v Home Farm; Shamrock v Finn Harps (3.30); St Patrick's Athletic v Derry (3.30); UCD v Kilkenny; Waterford v St Joseph's; Wayside Celtic v St James's.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Liskeard Athletic v Paulton.

ICE HOCKEY

8.30 unless stated

HEINEKEN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Durham v Cardiff; Solihull v Cleveland (7.0); Whitley v Peterborough. First division: Humberside v Lee Valley (5.15); Medway v Slough (5.15); Romford v Bracknell (5.15); Trafford v Telford (5.30).

ENGLISH LEAGUE: Blackburn v Richmond; Haringey v Chelmsford (8.0).

VOLLEYBALL

ROYAL BANK NATIONAL LEAGUE: Women: First division: Mizuno Britannia v Dynamo London (2.0); Ashcombe Sabre Dorking v GP Scorpions (2.30); Lakeland v Brixton Knights (12.15).

HOCKEY

POUNDSTRETCHER NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Bromley v Slough (Edenbridge Leisure Centre, 12.30); Cannock v Southgate (Four Crosses ground, 1.30); East Grinstead v Ipsa (Edenbridge Leisure Centre, 2.15); Old Loughtonians v Hounslow (Chigwell, 2.30); St Albans v Neston (Clarence Park, 2.0); Stourport v Wakefield (King Charles School, Kidderminster, 2.30); Teddington v Havant (Broom Road School, 12.30); Welton v Indian Gymkhana (Orchard Park, Hull, 2.30). Second division: Bournville v Cambridge City (Shenley Court, Birmingham, 2.15); Broxbourne v Brean (Hailybury College, Hertford, 2.30); Canterbury v Lyons (Polo Farm, 2.0); Firebrands v Guildford (Bristol University, 1.30); Gore Court v Reading (Anchorians SC, Gillingham, 2.30); Richmond v Doncaster (Broom Road School, 2.30); Taunton Vale v Harborne (Taunton School, 12.0); Warrington v Trojans (Albert Park, Salford, 1.30).

NORWICH UNION LEAGUE: Premier division: Ipswich v Peterborough; Pelicans v Crostyx.

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Quarter-finals: Halifax v St Helens; Oldham v Salford; Wigan v Bradford (all ticket).

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: First division: Rochdale v Leeds; Sheffield v Castleford (2.15); Wakefield v Hull KR (3.30). Second division: Bramley v Huddersfield (3.30); Carlisle v Keighley (2.30); Dewsbury v Hunslet (3.30); Fulham v Workington; Leigh v Doncaster (1.0); Nottingham v Runcorn; Ryedale-York v Batley (2.15); Trafford v Barrow (3.30); Whitehaven v Chorley (3.30).

BASKETBALL

4.0 unless stated

CARLSBERG NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: London Docklands v Leicester; Sunderland v Thames Valley (6.0). Second division: Doncaster v Birmingham; Middlesbrough v Brixton; Plymouth v Manchester; Watford v Oldham (4.15). Third division: Barnsley v Swindon; North London v Leicester (4.30); Kirklees v Chiltern. Women: First division: Ipswich v Brixton; London Jets v Tyneside; Northampton v Manchester (3.30); Sheffield v Nottingham. Second division: Harlesden v Doncaster (3.0); Swindon v Camberley (2.0); Wirral v Kirklees (3.0). Women's National Trophy: Semi-final: Leicester v South Tyneside (7.0).

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: AAA-WAAA multi-event championships (Cosford).

BOWLS: English Women's national ind

RUGBY UNION

Bath poised to end the champions' challenge

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IF HARLEQUINS had been able to influence the fixture-making process this season, they could not have done better than to rest from their league labours today. Nine of their players are involved in England's A and B squads, which prepare at Twickenham tomorrow for next weekend's critical encounters with France, and a hard club game today is something their internationals can do without.

Therefore they may glance with sympathy at their squad colleagues from Bath and Wasps. The first-division leaders and last season's Courage champions collide at the Recreation Ground and the outcome may determine this season's championship. Bath are already two points clear of Leicester, who are in second place, and have a game in hand, as well as the comfort of league wins already recorded against Orrell, in third place, and Harlequins, in fourth.

Moreover, Bath, so accustomed to success in either the cup or the league for the last six years, are not about to lose the habit. They were dismissed from the Pilkington Cup in November, but Stuart Barnes, their captain, said: "We think we are quite a good club. Six cups and one double. For us not to win a trophy in any one year is unthinkable.

"We are determined to win this league and allow no slip-ups. We were in a similar position this time last year but two defeats gave the title to Wasps. If we lose to Wasps it would not be the end of the world, but it would be a nasty set-back. If we win, we will kill off one of our chasers and we know that the other two — Leicester and Orrell — still have to meet each other and will be cutting each other's throat."

Bath will play Martin Haag at lock, ahead of Nigel Redman, and David Egerton at No. 8, in his first league game for five months. A query remains over Gareth Chilcott, who has a damaged calf, but Wasps's pack is not at full strength, since Jeff Probyn, nursing bruised ribs, is rested and neither Richard Kinsey nor Jon Ellison is fit.

That will give Francis Emeruwa the chance to show what might have been. Emeruwa, the blind-side flanker, played in a B international against Ireland in 1982, alongside such luminaries as Rory Underwood, Nigel Melville and Paul Rendall, and looked a magnificent prospect for full international honours before a disastrous knee injury stopped him in mid-career.

Leicester, who visit Bristol, and Northampton, at home to Gloucester, are leading the drive by the Midland clubs for smaller national divisions and home-and-away fixtures in the league. The Midlands are looking at ten-club leagues and John Allen, the Leicester secretary, expressed the hope that if a change was made, it would be as soon as 1992-3.

In the second division, victory for Rugby at London Scottish, who are without David Millard at scrum half, would give substance to their hopes of first-division rugby next season, while in the third, a win by West Hartlepool against Broughton Park would secure promotion.

☐ The Heineken League resumes in Wales with Neath, the leaders of the premier division, hoping to put behind them memories of five defeats in their last nine fixtures. They are at home to Glamorgan Wanderers, who are second from bottom and whose captain, Mike Goldsworthy, resigned from his post this week.

A significant encounter will take place between Bridgend, placed second, and Newbridge, who are demonstrating the form which was expected of them early in the season. Bridgend, who won at Newbridge in October, will be without their centres, John Apsee (injured) and Steve Pritchard (suspended).

TEAM NEWS

Bath v Wasps
Bath play Haag in their second row and Fallon on the wing for the injured Adebayo. Dunston props for Wasps, who have Pinnegar at lock and Bates returning at scrum half.

Bristol v Leicester
Reece makes his league debut in the Bristol back row, while Hogg and Davis are preferred at half back. Tebbutt (flanker) and Evans (wing) are the Leicester replacements for the injured Back and Tony Underwood.

Saracens v Rosslyn Park
Euckton and Clarke return for Saracens, who have Dooley on the wing and move Tunningley to full back. Bottarman (hooker) starts his first league game this season. Scott plays on the Park wing for the unavailable Hunter, but Holder (stand-off) and Horrocks-Taylor (prop) return.

Liv St H v Nottingham
Liverpool restore King at prop and field the Simms brothers at centre. Hudson continues at hooker for Nottingham in the absence of the injured Taylor and Hodgkinson returns at full back.

Orrell v Moseley
Orrell rest Ashurst, which gives Manley his opportunity at flanker, but there is a doubt over Southern's fitness at prop. Hardcastle is unavailable for Moseley, who field Kerr at stand-off and Masters at flanker.

Northampton v Gloucs
Pearce has recovered from the knee injury sustained in Ireland and leads Northampton, with Thorneycroft preferred on the left wing. Morris plays in centre for Gloucester, with Spencer on the flank for the injured Gadd.

Selectors retain same side

IRELAND retain the team that ran England so close in last week's triple crown match for their final five nations' championship match against Scotland at Murrayfield on March 16 (David Hands writes). But they have deferred until Monday the announcement of the match replacements so that the selectors can watch this weekend's qualifying league games at Blackrock College and Dungannon.

The main debate will have focused on the second row, where Mick Galwey made an impressive case for a recall during the B international with England. Indeed, that match advanced the cause of several other players, among them Nick Popplewell, the Greystones prop, and Pat O'Hara, the Sunday's Well flanker who appeared for the Barbarians in midweek.

But given that Ireland led a far more experienced England side for all but ten minutes in Dublin last Saturday, the same players receive another opportunity.

IRELAND: J E Staples (London Irish); S P Geoghegan (London Irish), B J Mullin (Blackrock College), D M Curtis (London Irish), K D Crossan (Instonians); B A Smith (Leicester), R Saunders (London Irish, captain); J J Fitzgerald (Young Munster), S J Smith (Ballymena), D C Fitzgerald (Lansdowne), P M Matthews (Wanderers), B J Rigney (Greystones), N P Francis (Blackrock College), G F Hamilton (NIFC), B F Robinson (Ballymena).

IRISH TOUR ITINERARY: July: 17 v Namibia B (Windhoek); 20 v Namibia (Windhoek); 23 v South sub-union (Keetmanshoop); 27 v Namibia (Windhoek).

Six years to qualify for Wales

By GERALD DAVIES

THE Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) has imposed a six-year residential qualification on players who seek to represent Wales. This is an additional qualification to the more obvious ones of birth, or having Welsh parents or grandparents, and is the union's response to what was threatening to become a contentious issue.

"Wales has always been a leading rugby nation through the excellence of Welshmen," Denis Evans, the WRU secretary, said at a press conference yesterday. "We have never had to rely upon other nations and we don't intend to start now. We are now pressing the International Rugby Football Board to adopt these guidelines."

Evans also confirmed that this year's Schweppes Welsh Cup semi-finals will be played consecutively at the Arms Park on Sunday, April 7, kicking off at 1.30pm and 3.45pm. Both Bridgend and Llanelli have protested over the arrangement.

The WRU and the Football Association of Wales have reached a 15-year agreement on the shared use of the Cardiff Arms Park, giving football a minimum of four games per season. Floodlighting, to a European football standard, is to be installed by June and will be used for the first time on September 4 for a full rugby international against France — a final game in preparation for the World Cup for both countries.

World Cup competition

The Times next week presents an exclusive three-part competition with prizes of top-quality visits to the greatest event in the rugby union year, the World Cup, including the final at Twickenham. The competition will be in *The Times* next Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Seeds of doubt surfacing

By MICHAEL SEELY
RACING CORRESPONDENT

OPINIONS differ down Whitsbury way about Desert Orchid on the eve of the Cheltenham Gold Cup.

David Elsworth is worried that the strain of having won 34 of his 64 races and having galloped 160 miles over hurdles and fences may at last have taken its toll and that the almost white wonder horse may meet his Waterloo on the final climb up the Prestbury hill for the second consecutive year.

"I've got reservations about it," said the trainer as we watched the living legend stretch himself in solitary splendour through the early morning mist. "It would be marvellous for his public and himself if he did win. He's obviously got a good chance. But I'm not confident, I'm apprehensive."

Rodney Boult, Desert Orchid's regular work rider, however, wants no part of this defeatist talk. Before breakfast, we stood in the stable yard as Elsworth posed patiently for endless photographs with the nation's equine idol.

"He's in great form," said the head lad. "I'm very confident that he will leave the others behind. He's going there fresh this year because he had a little break. He's got his batteries recharged and that spring in his step again."

Chris Hill, Elsworth's secretary and the guru of the form book, expounds in similar vein. "He had a hard race in the *Racing Post* Chase last year. So, somewhere between Kempton and Cheltenham, we lost him. This time we've been a different route. He's been rested since winning at Sandown and is a much fresher horse. And the evidence of that win doesn't suggest any marked deterioration."

Both the trainer's tried and truest allies know their subject backwards, without, perhaps possessing their boss's extraordinary empathy with animals. And it is this quality that gives Elsworth such a remarkable ability to read a horse's mind and now fills him with so much forboding about Dessie's date with Cheltenham destiny on Thursday.

At Sandown recently the crowd erupted with excitement as Desert Orchid's matchless courage saw him snatch the Agfa Diamond Chase from the jaws of defeat. Noticeably, Elsworth was the odd man out in the unsaddling enclosure, standing with a furrowed brow in the midst of a jubilant throng. "I thought he was going to get beat," the trainer recalled. "It was hard work and too many tough races like that will break him mentally as he's an old horse."

We then talked about the 12-year-old grey warrior's thought processes. "He's been here for eight or nine years. He knows every gallop and every angle of them. He knows everything and can anticipate everything. As he gets older he's thinking, 'oh Christ, not again, this is bloody hard work'. It's like the guy who rides his bike up the same hill and clocks in at the same factory for 30 years. At the end he can't wait for retirement.

"The end result of this is that it's much harder getting him fit. It's all very physical and demanding so he starts to say 'to hell with it'. Therefore, when you're galloping him, he's a bit fatter and a bit older. He was so exciting to watch in his work in his prime, when he used to be almost running away. Now he's lost his motivation and is slowing down, so it takes that much longer putting an edge on him."

The child is father to the man and the seeds of Elsworth's long and passionate love affair with animals were sewn at an early age. His grandparents were farm workers and a couple of carthorses called Duke and Drummer were a six-year-old's constant companions through the long hot summer afternoons of childhood. "I used to sit by the bridge with a jam jar for minnows. The old horses used to stand in the cool drinking the water and swishing their tails. I used to stroke them and communicate with them.

"When harvest time came along, the horses would be needed. But because they were in semi-retirement they wouldn't let anyone catch them. So old Percy Wright, the farmer, used to come and knock on the schoolroom door and ask if he could borrow young Elsworth to catch the horses. I used to feel very important because I had to get up and leave the classroom in front of everybody. They wouldn't let the the carter near them, but would stand for me as a friend."

The trainer's controversial formative years have all been well documented and it was not until 1978 that he was granted his first trainer's licence. Today, 13 years later, he is undisputed master of Chris Harper's Whitsbury Lodge stables. And although Elsworth's fame and fortune is inextricably linked with that of Desert Orchid, the lure of the Flat beckons ever stronger.

The 100 or so horses, whose attentions will be concentrated exclusively on the level this coming season, include In The Groove, Europe's top-rated filly, and other pattern race winners in Jaffa Line and Line Engaged.

Stubborn, determined and opinionated; these qualities, together with an overwhelming belief in his own abilities and an unquenchable enthusiasm, has helped to carry the dogged Elsworth relentlessly forward as he has seized the chances life has offered with both hands.

Jane Elsworth, the trainer's wife, has been an always admiring but frequently exhausted spectator of her husband's antics. "He's always had this 100 per cent faith in himself that he could train better than anyone he was working for. That's why he had so many jobs — because he kept telling them."

MARC ASPLAND

Looking for guidance: Desert Orchid under the watchful supervision of David Elsworth, right, and Rodney Boult

Brunton Park in form for Aintree

By MICHAEL SEELY

BRODERICK Munro-Wilson, a former member of the SAS and amateur rider, is to emerge from retirement and partner Brunton Park, the gallant winner of yesterday's *Horse And Hound* Grand Military Gold Cup at Sandown, in the Seagram Foxhunters' Chase at the Grand National meeting.

"I haven't ridden in a race since Fakenham last May," said the intrepid 45-year-old after Brunton Park had beaten another 13-year-old, Golden Friend, by three-quarters of a length after a stirring finish. "It's ten years to the day since I landed a 169-1 double here on The Drunken Duck and Galway Knight."

Yesterday, Brunton Park was ridden by Christian Ward Thomas, who is currently serving with the Household Cavalry in Windsor. After taking up the running going to the second fence from home, Brunton Park fought off the persistent challenge of the runner-up.

The Argonaut, 2-1 favourite to give the Queen Mother her fifth victory in the Gold Cup in the past eight years, weakened in the straight to finish last. "He wasn't lame, he made three bad mistakes and got tired," reported Gerald Oxley. Afterwards, the Queen presented the trophy to the winning owner and the Queen Mother those given to the jockey and winning trainer, John Jenkins.

Oxley went on to gain quick compensation for his disappointing ride on The Argonaut when partnering Prince Nepal to an easy 15 lengths win over Water Wagtail in the Duke of Gloucester Memorial Hunters' Chase.

The 2-1 winner is owned by Eldred Wilson, who won this race over 40 years ago on his own horse, River Buoy. Major Wilson was also successful a few years later on Essandem.

Stan Mellor is enjoying a marvellously successful season. The trainer continued in form when landing a short-priced double with Laundryman and Rositary. This gave Mellor his 29th winner of the season and Mark Perrett, who rode both winners, his 49th success.

Laundryman gave a polished and spectacular display of jumping in the Marcol Novices' Chase before going clear approaching the straight to beat Dare Say by eight lengths. The eight-year-old has now won four races in succession, but is to miss Cheltenham in favour of a race at Lingfield today week.

When Mellor is in form his horses generally score with some authority and, just like Laundryman, Rositary proved no exception when storming home by seven lengths in the Balvenie Malt Whisky Hurdle, in the process defying a 4lb penalty for a similar victory at Warwick last Tuesday.

The afternoon started on a high note for Martin Pipe and Peter Scudamore when the reigning champion jockey rode Riverside Boy to a three lengths win in the Beech Novices' Hurdle.

Pipe will be going to the National Hunt Festival with a strong hand next week as his possible 15-strong raiding party will include Sondrio (Champion Hurdle), Granville Again, (Trafalgar House Supreme Novices' Hurdle) and Hopscotch, the 5-1 favourite for the *Daily Express* Triumph Hurdle.

Racing next week

MONDAY: Ayr, Plumpton.
TUESDAY: Cheltenham, Sedgefield, Lingfield Park.
WEDNESDAY: Cheltenham, Newton Abbot.
THURSDAY: Cheltenham, Haxham.
FRIDAY: Lingfield Park, Wolverhampton, Fakenham.
SATURDAY: Chepstow, Uttoxeter, Lingfield Park, Newcastle, Southwell.
Flat meetings in bold.

Bally Murphy Boy best

By BRIAN BEEL

BALLY Murphy Boy, a maiden winner at Dunhallow in Ireland last season, runs for the first time in England today, in the colours of Edward Denyer, at the Mid Surrey Farmers point-to-point.

If his choice is the open, I would not expect him to be good enough to beat The Wilk, but the adjacent, Bally Murphy Boy's alternative engagement, could well be within his grasp.

With Mossy Moore absent from the ladies' race and Dun Gay Lass from the open, the principal events at the Tynedale could go to Flying Ace and Ready Steady.

In the Land Rover qualifier at the Silverton, Trecauldah, beaten into first place at Nedge on his debut, looks worthy of support.

Fort Hall already qualified for the final by his win in the RMC qualifier at Cottenham, may again be successful in that sponsor's race at the Oakley. In the corresponding event at the Dunston Harriers, As You Were may reverse the Ampton placing with Shedid.

Royal Buskins won at the first Nedge meeting and returns for the Avon Vale open where he will face stiff opposition in Gunner's Flight and Air Strike.

The Red One, an impressive winner last week, will be difficult to beat in the main event at the Derwent.

Waterlogging has caused the postponement of the Tanatside where two *Times* championship qualifiers were due to have been run. The meeting has been rescheduled for March 23. The North Ledbury suffered a similar fate and has the new date of March 21.

TODAY'S FIXTURES: Avon Vale, Nedge, 5 miles north east of Wells (first race, 12.30); Brecon, Llanfrynach, 3m SE of Brecon (12.0); Brocklesby, Brocklesby Park, 5m E of Grimsby (2.0); Derwent, Charm Park, 5m SE of Scarborough (12.30); Dunston Harriers, Ampton, 4m N of Bury St Edmunds (1.0); Mid Surrey Farmers, Charing, 6m NE of Ashford (1.0); Oakley, Newton Bromswold, 3m SE of Rushden (1.0); Silverton, Haldon, 6m SW of Exeter (1.0); Tynedale, Corbridge, 2m N of town (1.0) Western, Wadebridge, 1m W of town (1.0).

Nomadic Way pleases Dunwoody in school

RICHARD Dunwoody was delighted with his Champion Hurdle mount, Nomadic Way, when schooling the Barry Hills-trained six-year-old in Lambourn yesterday.

"I'm very pleased with him and Mr Hills thinks he'll improve a lot from his Haydock run," Dunwoody said.

Dunwoody came in for the ride on last year's Champion Hurdle runner-up, currently a 10-1 chance for Tuesday's championship, when Peter Scudamore plumped for Sondrio, the horse who beat Nomadic Way at Haydock last week.

Dunwoody, sixth on Nomadic Way in the valuable Dueling Grounds Hurdle in the United States 11 months ago, has a host of strongly fancied rides at the festival, including Remittance Man (Arkle Chase).

☐ Jim Bolger plans to run Nordic Surprise in both the Trafalgar House Supreme Novices' Hurdle on Tuesday and the *Daily Express* Triumph Hurdle on Thursday.

☐ The trial of the jockey Lindsay Charnock, who is in Macau accused of causing the death of racing journalist Ian Manning in a car crash 15 months ago, has been adjourned for at least a week after a mistake by the local judiciary.

LINGFIELD PARK

Selections

By Mandarin

1.45 The Cuckoo's Nest. 2.15 Euroblake. 2.45 Lady Philippa. 3.15 Dawn Success. 3.45 Tom's Prospect. 4.15 St Elmo's Fire. 4.45 Qualitair Aviator.

By Thunderer

1.45 Clear Idea. 2.15 Euroblake. 2.45 Comtec Flyer. 3.15 Langtry Lady. 3.45 Tom's Prospect. 4.15 Crosby. 4.45 Qualitair Aviator.

Going: standard SIS
Draw: 5f-1m, low to middle numbers best

1.45 PISCES MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £2,924: 1m) (11 runners)
1 00-3 BEE BEAT 21 E Wheeler 9-0 ... W Newnes 5
2 0-02 BULLET PROOF 46 (B) P Howling 9-0 ... B Crossley 2
3 40- CLEAR IDEA 169 C Nelson 9-0 ... Paul Eddery 9
4 04- DOM WAC 128 M Bell 9-0 ... G Duffield 10
5 03- THE CUCKOO'S NEST 130 (B) C Britain 9-0 ... R Cochrane 1
6 WATWICK BAY (V) B Palling 9-0 ... D Holland (5) 7
7 000- BELLE DANGEREUSE 182 M Blanshard 8-9 ... G Baxter 8
8 00- BROUGHTON'S GOLD 142 W Musson 8-9 A Mackay 11
9 CAROLE'S QUEST C Holmes 8-9 ... J Williams 6
10 000- CONCRETE 109 C C Elsey 8-9 ... A Munro 3
11 INTENTIONS D Murray Smith 8-9 ... R Wernham 4

2-1 Clear Idea, 5-2 The Cuckoo's Nest, 5-1 Bee Beat, 6-1 Dom Wac, 8-1 Bullet Proof, 12-1 Inentions, 16-1 others.

2.15 AQUARIUS CLAIMING STAKES (Div I: £2,898: 7f) (11)
1 -314 ERRIS EXPRESS 7 (BF,F,G) F Durr 8-8-11 .. G Baxter 6
2 -312 EUROBLAKE 35 (D,BF,F) T Barron 4-8-7 ... Alex Greaves (3) 10
3 0-12 WINDSOR HIGHNESS 7 (CD) M Muggeridge 4-8-4 ... S O'Gorman (5) 8
4 00- YELLOW METAL 228 A Dawson 4-8-6 ... W Newnes 2
5 0000 BEECHWOOD COTTAGE 14 (B,CD,F,G,S) A Bailey 8-8-5 ... B Doyle (7) 5
6 0 BUCKSWILL 32 Mrs B Waring 7-8-5 ... N Howe 4
7 4- FABULOUS QUEEN 284 (B) R King 8-8-3 ... P D'Arcy 7
8 000- DAZLA 188 (D,S) P Burgoyne 4-8-2 ... J Quinn 9
9 0326 CONCERT PITCH 15 (D,F,G,S) B Palling 12-7-13 ... D Holland (5) 11
10 000- ACTRESS 170 (D,F,G) D Jermy 5-7-12 ... N Adams 1
11 0-20 CARNEGIE DELI 7 S Dow 4-7-8 ... S Wood (3) 3

9-4 Euroblake, 7-2 Erris Express, 9-2 Carnegie Deli, 6-1 Windsor Highness, 8-1 Concert Pitch, 10-1 others.

2.45 VIRGO HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £7,050: 1m 2f) (8)
1 030- SUNSET STREET 135 (B,F,G) C Britain 9-10 ... B Doyle (7) 5
2 -111 LADY PHILIPPA 14 (CD) B Hills 9-0 .. Dean McKeown 7
3 013- CARONIANDOO 147 (F) M Bell 8-9 ... G Duffield 4
4 2-10 QUICK RANSOM 32 (CD,BF) M Johnston 8-0 ... N Carlisle 3
5 012 OLD SPECKLED HEN 14 (C) M Fetherston-Godley 7-7 ... D Harrison (7) 1
6 -215 CLASSIC ACCOUNT 14 (CD) C Wildman 7-7 N Adams 2
7 -130 PAINT THE LILY 14 D Jermy 7-7 ... G Bardwell 6
8 0021 COMTEC FLYER 10 (B) J Bottomley 7-7 ... N Kennedy (5) 6

5-2 Lady Philippa, 7-2 Comtec Flyer, 9-2 Old Speckled Hen, 6-1 Quick Ransom, 8-1 Classic Account, 10-1 others.

3.15 ZODIAC HANDICAP (£15,140: 1m) (12)
1 -211 RAPPORTEUR 21 (C,F) C C Elsey 5-10-0. W Newnes 9
2 1161 TEMPERING 43 (F) D Chapman 5-9-11 ... D Nicholls 2
3 2104 VANROY 14 (V,CD,F,G,S) J Jenkins 7-9-6. J Williams 7
4 00-3 DAWN SUCCESS 14 (E,F,G,S) C Britain 5-9-0 ... B Doyle (7) 10
5 233- LANGTRY LADY 149 (D,F,S) M Ryan 5-9-13 ... N Guilliams (5) 3
6 2105 PYTCHLEY NIGHT 14 (CD) D Morris 4-9-13 .. S Perks 4
7 0111 AMENABLE 4 (CD,F,G) T Barron 6-9-10 (5ex) ... Alex Greaves (3) 8
8 00/1 ROWLANDSONS GEMS 9J (B,C,D,F) D Murray Smith 6-9-8 A Munro 11
9 2510 AFRICAN CHIMES 7 (C,BF) W O'Gorman 4-9-5 ... Emma O'Gorman (3) 5
10 305- FULL QUIVER 179 (V,F) Mrs B Waring 6-9-5 N Howe 12
11 3-21 SHANNON EXPRESS 38 (D,F) P Kelleway 4-9-4 ... A Beiser (7) 6
12 040- ROSE GLEN 164 (B,G) A Bailey 5-8-4 ... G Carter 1

4-1 Rapporteur, 9-2 Dawn Success, 5-1 Tempering, 6-1 Amenable, 8-1 Vanroy, Rowlandsons Gems, 10-1 others.

3.45 LIBRA HANDICAP (£5,117: 7f) (8)
1 0-22 CRAFT EXPRESS 7 (G) M Johnston 5-10-0 R P Elliott 4
2 3152 SALLY'S SON 7 (V,CD,BF,F) W O'Gorman 5-9-6 ... Emma O'Gorman (5) 7
3 213- SHARP N' SMOOTH 180 (C) R Hannon 4-9-3 ... S Wood (3) 3
4 103- SOLOMONS NEPHEW 249 (F) J Scargill 4-9-1 ... K Rutter (7) 5
5 -506 WELLSY LAD 22 (B,CD,S) D Chapman 4-9-0 ... D Nicholls 2
6 1-3 MONDAY DEAN 10 (G) M Prescott 3-8-4 .. G Duffield 1
7 -222 TOM'S PROSPECT 14 (D,BF) C Nelson 3-8-4 ... D Holland (5) 6
8 -025 AIR NYMPH 18 C C Elsey 4-7-13 ... N Adams 8

3-1 Sally's Son, 4-1 Craft Express, 5-1 Sharp N' Smooth, 11-2 Monday Dean, 6-1 Tom's Prospect, 8-1 others.

4.15 AQUARIUS CLAIMING STAKES (Div II: £2,898: 7f) (10)
1 3/0 EAGLES LAIR 7 D Marks 5-9-7 ... S Dawson 10
2 300/ SPRINGLAKE'S LADY 51J (B,S) R Thompson 5-9-12 ... A Forte 3
3 0-00 TRIDE ESPION 10 (G,S) D Chapman 5-9-9 D Nicholls 9
4 4165 CROSBY 10 (E,CD,F,G,S) P Kelleway 5-9-7 J Williams 4
5 230/ SLANGI VAN 886 (G) W Musson 6-9-7 ... A Mackay 6
6 -465 SUPER ONE 8 (B,C,D,BF,F,G) T Barron 4-9-4 ... Alex Greaves (3) 2
7 34/0 KORYPHEOS 18 (B,F,S) S Dow 12-8-3 A Martinez (7) 7
8 00/1 ST ELMO'S FIRE 7 (CD,F,S) C Brooks 6-8-1 G Duffield 1
9 000- GENTLY GENTLY 151 R Hannon 4-7-13 .. A McGlone 1
10 3343 MURMURING 7 (C) S Dow 5-7-12 Emma O'Gorman (5) 5

7-4 St Elmo's Fire, 5-2 Super One, 4-1 Crosby, 6-1 Murmuring, 8-1 Gently Gently, 10-1 Korypheos, 12-1 others.

4.45 SAGGITARIUS HANDICAP (£3,492: 1m 5f) (5)
1 28-1 QUALITAIN AVIATOR 18 (CD,F) J Bottomley 5-10-0 ... G Bardwell 5
2 3011 SCOTONI 7 (C,F) R O'Sullivan 5-8-0 ... J Williams 8
3 5-52 TAJ VICTORY 18 (D) Lord Huntingdon 4-8-8 ... Dean McKeown 2
4 009- BASIC FUN 114J J Spearing 5-8-1 ... G Hind (5) 7
5 0-00 KATIE SCARLETT 16J (C) J Bridger 5-7-7 S Wood (3) 3
6 040- LACE PARDOL 127 C Holmes 5-7-7 ... N Adams 4

6-4 Taj Victory, 9-4 Scotoni, 3-1 Qualitair Aviator, 10-1 Basic Fun, 12-1 Katie Scarlett, 14-1 Lace Pardol.

Course specialists

TRAINERS: B Hills, 12 winners from 30 runners, 40.0%; M Prescott, 6 from 25, 32.0%; W O'Gorman, 10 from 40, 25.0%; T Barron, 5 from 23, 21.7%; D Murray Smith, 10 from 48, 20.8%; M Johnston, 6 from 29, 20.7%.

JOCKEYS: Emma O'Gorman, 8 winners from 32 rides, 25.0%; K Rutter, 4 from 16, 25.0%; Alex Greaves, 6 from 29, 20.7%; S O'Gorman, 12 from 60, 20.0%; Dean McKeown, 12 from 60, 20.0%; R P Elliott, 5 from 26, 19.2%.

Results from yesterday's four meetings

Sandown Park

Going: good to soft (chase course); soft, good to hard straight (hurdles)

2.0 (2m 5f 75yd hdle) 1, RIVERSIDE BOY (P. Scudamore, 5-4 fav); 2, Dearing Valley (B Powell, 40-1); 3, Sporting Times (J Railton, 100-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Ramlosa (pu), 13-2 Furry Knowe (4th), 10 True Magic (5th), 12 Riverino (6th), 20 Unaxis (pu), 25 Corrovorrin, Proving, 50 Charcoal Embers (pu), Grange Brake, Keep Talking, Montacombe, Mr Gee, 66 Warner Forpleasure (pu). 100 Autumn Crystal (pu). 17 ran. 3l, 1l, 25l, 3l, hd. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £2.30; £1.20, £11.30, £16.60. DF: £85.90. CSF: £47.18.

2.35 (2m 4f 66yd ch) 1, LAUNDRYMAN (M Perrett, 4-6 fav; Mandarin's reply); 2, Dare Say (D Murphy, 10-1); 3, Fiddle A Little (J White, 50-1). ALSO RAN: 5 False Economy (f), 9 Thats The Business (5th), 12 Bignor Hill (4th), 14 Tyred N'Snocked (pu), 33 First Warning (pu), 50 Gaelic Chief (6th), Plague O' Rats (pu). 10 ran. 6l, 20l, 5 Meter at Wantage. Tote: £1.60; £1.40, £2.40, £5.10. DF: £8.20. CSF: £8.37.

3.5 (3m 110yd ch) 1, BRUNTON PARK (Capt C Ward Thomas, 10-1); 2, Golden Friend (Capt J Wingfield Digby, 11-4); 3, Bob Tisdall (Mr A Ogden, 11-2). ALSO RAN: 2 fav The Argonaut, 9 Elvercone (5th), 10 John O'Dea, 25 Its All Very Fine (f), 33 San Ovac, Dictatorship (6th), Grand Inquisitor (f), Some Shot (pu), 50 Wild Argosy (pu), After Four (4th), Pensioner Patch (ur). 14 ran. ¾l, 4l, J Jenkins at Royston. Tote: £14.10; £3.10, £1.40, £2.80. DF: £23.40. CSF: £36.39.

3.40 (2m 5f 75yd hdle) 1, ROSITARY (M Perrett, 2-1 fav); 2, Abbreviation (D Murphy, 6-1); 3, Crystal Bear (J Railton, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 8 The Blyntheckar (4th), 7 Ambuscade (pu), 10 Ikimasel, 12 Montagnard (5th), 25 Theo's Fella (6th), 33 Reggae Yeoman (pu), 50 Gilt Bronze. 10 ran. 7l, 2½l, 7l, 20l, 1½l. S Mellor at Wanborough. Tote: £2.90; £1.50, £2.50, £1.80. DF: £13.00. CSF: £16.60. Tricast: £82.80.

4.10 (3m 110yd ch) 1, PRINCE NEPAL (Mr G Coley, 2-1 fav); 2, Water Wagtail (Mr J Greenall, 6-1); 3, Tartavie (Mr M Sample, 7-2). ALSO RAN: 11-4 Wheaton (pu), 12 Right Card (ur), 25 Provide, Takeallence (4th), 50 Brave Admiral (pu), Crunch (6th), Latin American (5th). 10 ran. 15l, dist, 20l, 1½l, dist. R Champion at Newmarket. Tote: £2.70; £1.50, £1.40, £1.70. DF: £6.10. CSF: £13.82.

4.40 (2m hdle) 1, KING CREDO (J Railton, 7-2 fav); 2, Poetic Gem (J Frost, 9-2); 3, Galick Opinion (R Dunwoody, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Sailors Luck, 13-2 Meadow Cottage (6th), 9 It's After Time, 10 Scole (4th), 20 Alegbye (5th), Rhythm And Song (pu), 25 Warrior For Winners, 33 Nickstine, 66 Armala (pu). 12 ran. 4l, 10l, 6l, 3½l, 2½l. S Woodman at Chichester. Tote: £4.30; £1.80, £1.40, £2.30. DF: £7.30. CSF: £19.61.

Jackpot: £3,671.80. Placepot: £11.40.

Carlisle

Going: soft

2.0 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Northants (K Doolan, 6-1); 2, Truely Royal (25-1); 3, Mister Moody (8-1). Arpel Breeze 5-4 fav. 17 ran. NR: Little Saffrona. 5l, 25l. W Storey. Tote: £8.90; £1.90, £2.90, £1.70. DF: £33.50. CSF: £132.62.

2.30 (2m 4f ch) 1, Jasters Prospect (N Doughty, 9-4 fav); 2, Norval (8-1); 3, Paco's Boy (7-2). 8 ran. NR: Martinmoore. 30l, 12l. G Richards. Tote: £2.80; £1.50, £1.90, £1.70. DF: £4.30. CSF: £8.07.

3.0 (3m 100yd hdle) 1, Portavogie (S Storey, 6-1); 2, Morgans Harbour (7-4 fav); 3, Silas (8-1). 12 ran. 1½l, 6l. C Parker. Tote: £5.60; £2.40, £1.30, £2.10. DF: £7.30. CSF: £16.46.

3.30 (2m ch) 1, Share A Friend (N Doughty, 11-8 fav); 2, Super Fountain (13-2); 3, Scarning Dale (6-4). 4 ran. 3½l, dist. G Richards. Tote: £2.00. DF: £4.30. CSF: £7.85.

4.0 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, Mrs Peopleater (D O'Sullivan, 6-1); 2, Magic Soldier (4-1 fav); 3, Roman Dusk (16-1). 13 ran. 4l, 12l. C Weedon. Tote: £8.30; £1.90, £2.00, £3.40. DF: £8.00. CSF: £25.80. Tricast: £306.84.

4.30 (3m 2f ch) 1, Radical Lady (M Dwyer, 3-1 fav); 2, Camionnage (12-1); 3, Green Archer (8-1). 10 ran. ¾l, dist. G Moore. Tote: £4.10; £1.60, £3.20, £2.10. DF: £21.40. CSF: £33.86. Tricast: £235.28.

5.0 (2m 1f 110yd flat) 1, Hazlewood Glen (W Fry, 13-8 fav); 2, Campstout (8-1); 3, Timandaya (66-1). 14 ran. 6l, 1l. T Tate. Tote: £4.10; £2.40, £2.90, £15.40. DF: £16.40. CSF: £14.72.

Placepot: £82.20.

Market Rasen

Going: good to soft

2.15 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Emerald Gem (M Brennan, 7-2); 2, Tommy Boy (9-1); 3, Barton Loch (5-1 jt-fav). Hunted 3-1 fav. 14 ran. 1½l, nk. O Brennan. Tote: £3.90; £1.40, £3.10, £1.40. DF: £12.70. CSF: £35.41.

2.45 (2m 1f ch) 1, Moe Greene (R Bellamy, 13-2); 2, Valentinos Joy (16-1); 3, McConnochie. Tote: £6.20; £3.00, £3.60. DF: £31.80. CSF: £59.02.

3.15 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Ullswater (J Lodder, 9-2); 2, Anurag (13-8 fav); 3, Diamond Path Jordan. Tote: £4.50; £1.40, £1.20, £2.00. DF: £4.60. CSF: £12.70.

3.50 (2m 6f hdle) 1, Sherwood Gunner (M Brennan, 9-2); 2, Nesfield (21-20 fav); 3, Rostreamer (6-1). 12 ran. 6l, 2½l. O Brennan. Tote: £6.80; £2.10, £1.30, £1.60. DF: £4.90. CSF: £9.08. Tricast: £26.08.

4.20 (3m ch) 1, Blakes Son (G McCourt, 5-4 fav); 2, True Loop (11-4); 3, Good Easterby. Tote: £2.00; £1.40, £1.50, £4.30. CSF: £4.95.

4.50 (3m ch) 1, Final Chant (Mr H Brown, 4-11 fav); 2, Bronze Head (8-1); 3, Shackin Brig (33-1). 6 ran. NR: Bold Baron, Templetown. 15l, hd. D Brydon. Tote: £1.30; £1.20, £1.80. DF: £2.60. CSF: £3.14.

5.20 (1m 6f flat) 1, Favoured Victor (A S Smith, 5-1); 2, Aqiq (33-1); 3, Tufinat George (16-1). Deep Chance 7-2 fav. 16 ran. 20l, 2l. K Morgan. Tote: £9.20; £3.70, £5.20, £3.90. DF: £88.00. CSF: £182.82.

Placepot: £41.00.

Southwell

Going: standard

2.30 (1m 4f) 1, Clear Light (J Williams, 7-4 fav); 2, Mystery Band (11-2); 3, Nicolina (7-1). 7 ran. ¾l, 1½l. M Pipe. Tote: £3.00; £1.90, £4.10. DF: £8.10. CSF: £11.31.

3.0 (6f) 1, Continental Carl (J Williams, 16-1); 2, Where's Carol (16-1); 3, Misdemeanours Girl (33-1). La Masse 9-5 fav. 11 ran. 3½l, 2½l. J Jenkins. Tote: £27.20; £4.20, £2.30, £9.80. DF: £98.70. CSF: £286.41.

3.30 (6f) 1, Briese (J Fanning, 16-1); 2, Elegant Rose (8-1); 3, Silly's Brother (4-6 fav). 5 ran. ½l, 1l. T Fairhurst. Tote: £14.20; £8.90, £4.10. DF: £15.80. CSF: £98.36.

4.0 (6f) 1, Dumaax (G Parkin, 7-1); 2, Green's Bonheur (2-1 fav); 3, Tom's Arctic Dream (33-1). 11 ran. Sh hd, 8l. J Wainwright. Tote: £8.40; £2.30, £2.00, £4.40. DF: £9.10. CSF: £21.22.

4.30 (7f) 1, Sleepline Fantasy (J Quinn, 16-1); 2, Kristield (33-1); 3, Hard Sell (12-1). Victronia 3-1 fav. 16 ran. Nk, ½l. M Channon. Tote: £60.20; £17.80, £8.40, £5.30. DF (winner or second with any other): £7.20. CSF: £405.21. Tricast: £5,818.74. After a stewards' enquiry, result stood.

5.0 (1m) 1, My Concordie (Alex Greaves, 33-1); 2, Pleasure Ahead (9-2); 3, Ibn Nass (10-1). Native Suitor 5-2 fav. 12 ran. NR: Ilewin.

State Jester has best credentials

By MANDARIN (MICHAEL PHILLIPS)

THE Imperial Cup would be at the mercy of Al Asoof at Sandown Park today if his recent Fontwell defeat of the former champion hurdler Beech Road, subsequent Haydock winner Sondrio and Deep Sensation was a true reflection of his ability.

My inclination, however, is to disregard the Fontwell form because it could flatter Al Asoof since his principal rivals were unlikely to be 100 per cent that day as their sights were set on the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham next Tuesday.

Also, the 4lb penalty that he picked up means that he must now carry the same weight again as State Jester. On the last occasion that they met, at Ascot in January, they also carried identical weights and State Jester proved superior to the tune of three-and-a-half lengths when they finished second and fifth respectively behind Olveston.

Discussing State Jester's chance yesterday, his trainer Bill Elsey said that while the eight-year-old's preparation was held up for a while by the frost and snow early last month, he takes great comfort from the fact that State Jester won first time out this season at Ayr to show himself to be a clean-winded horse.

Wherever Al Asoof finishes the recent easy Lingfield winner Champagne Lad should be thereabouts. They finished first and second at Fontwell at the end of December, and Champagne Lad is now considerably better off.

The two miles around Sandown is likely to be too sharp for the top weight Yaheeb, while the ground should prove too soft for Stratford Ponds.

Honest Word and Star Season, the winners of good races at Newbury and Kempton, should give another good account.

If when riding Venturist in the HMS Sandown Novices' Handicap Hurdle, Richard Dunwoody fails to beat the Reg Akehurst-trained Requested, compensation could easily come later with a double on Bigsun (3.35) and Acre Hill (4.40).

Bigsun, Dunwoody's likely mount in this year's Grand National, will be contesting the Food Brokers Royal Game Handicap Chase in the hope that he does not get into the tough duel he endured last year while winning the Ritz Club Steeple Chase at Cheltenham.

In hindsight, that hard race may have put him over the top by the time that he went to Aintree, where he finished a creditable sixth.

Rinus, another with the Grand National firmly in his sights again — he finished third last year — will have a second quick sharpener in the Doonholm Handicap Chase today, having finished fourth behind Sabin Du Loir at Worcester ten days ago, but he should not be up to beating Boutzdaroff over two miles.

Peter Niven, who has gained a host of admirers this season, can land my nap on Fishki (3.15), who was clearly not right when finishing only third last time behind Abbott Of Furness. She became a victim of equine flu immediately afterwards.

Before that, she had beaten Burgoyne, Greek Flutter and Ross Venture well enough on today's course, when it was equally soft, to suggest that she could have been treated leniently by the handicapper here.

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Selections

By Mandarin

2.15 Turoldus. 2.45 Bantel Buccaneer. 3.15 FISHKI (nap). 3.45 Tartan Tempest. 4.15 Boutzdaroff. 4.45 Vestal Hills. 5.15 General Pershing.

By Thunderer

2.15 Stagshaw Belle. 2.45 Arctic Skylight. 3.15 Casual Pass. 3.45 Tartan Tempest. 4.15 GENERAL CHANDOS (nap). 4.45 Drumhead. 5.15 General Pershing.

Michael Seely's selection: 5.15 GENERAL PERSHING (nap).

Going: soft

2.15 JAMES BARCLAY MEMORIAL TROPHY (Maiden hurdle: amateurs: £2,082: 2m 6f) (13 runners)

1 P ABE MY BOY 16 T Gibson 10-12-0 ..... S Heslop (7)
2 -6U2 CELTIC BREEZE 15 M Naughton 8-12-0 ..... R Ford (7)
3 6P/ CREE LEADER 484F N Bycroft 6-12-0 ..... J Bycroft (1)
4 0 HIGHLAND RASCAL 120 G Richards 7-12-0 C Ewart (7)
5 -046 KAMBALDA RAMBLER 42 C Parker 7-12-0 D Parker (7)
6 -6F0 SEBEL HOUSE 38 (B) D McCain 8-12-0 ... D McCain (7)
7 5P6 TUROLDUS 7 S Mellor 8-12-0 ..... D Gray
8 33-3 WICHNDA 19 (V) J S Wilson 5-12-0 ..... K Anderson (3)
9 300- LINN FALLS 319 G Richards 6-11-9 ..... R Hale (7)
10 2625 STAGSHAW BELLE 15 Mrs S Bradburne 7-11-9 ..... J Bradburne (5)
11 4/U TEMPORARY AFFAIR 8 R Francis 7-11-9 C J Barlow (7)
12 CLYDE RANGER M Hammond 4-11-4 ..... S Lyons (7)
13 0 REGAN 7 Miss J Barclay 4-10-13 ..... Dr S Love (7)

3-1 Celtic Breeze, 7-2 Turoldus, 5-1 Stagshaw Belle, 6-1 Sebel House, 7-1 Kambalda Rambler, 8-1 Highland Rascal.

2.45 AFTON NOVICES CHASE (£2,895: 2m 4f) (11 runners)

1 1F20 BANTEL BUCCANEER 16 (B,S) K Oliver 9-11-6 T Reed
2 P- ANTHONY HILL 383 N Bycroft 10-11-0 ..... G Harker
3 210- ARCTIC SKYLIGHT 357 (F) G Richards 7-11-0 ..... N Doughty
4 P BRABNER RAMBLER 71 C Parker 8-11-0 ..... B Storey
5 PP16 CONTACT KELVIN 14 (C,G,S) N Bycroft 9-11-0 ..... F Murtagh (7)
6 UP FRIARS CROFT 17 S Mactaggart 8-11-0 ..... A Orkney
7 1/0 INTERLOK DIVIDER 40 (G) J S Wilson 8-11-0 R Morley
8 31/ JOSSESTOWN 850 (G) R Francis 8-11-0 ... L O'Hara (3)
9 3045 WARWICK SUITE 10 (B,G,S) M Hammond 9-11-0 ..... P Niven
10 UNP4 WATERNION 7 G Cotsworth 10-11-0 ..... A Merrigan
11 5P YOUNG SHOT 46 Mrs S Smith 8-11-0 ..... R Savage

9-4 Arctic Skylight, 3-1 Bantel Buccaneer, 5-1 Contact Kelvin, 6-1 Warwick Suite, 10-1 Waterslap, 14-1 others.

3.15 AYRSHIRE YEOMANRY CUP (Handicap hurdle: £2,406: 2m 4f) (9)

1 2P11 CANDLEBRIGHT 64 (C,F,G,S) G Richards 7-11-10 ..... N Doughty
2 34-2 HEY COTTAGE 8 (D,G,S) D McCain 6-11-5 ..... Mr D McCain (7)
3 0030 JOINT SOVEREIGNTY 15 (B,D,F,G,S) J S Wilson 11-11-1 ..... M Dwyer
4 03-4 CASUAL PASS 15 (C,D,F,S) T Cuthbert 8-11-0 ..... Carol Cuthbert (7)
5 0P04 GUNNER MAC 8 (V,C,G,S) N Bycroft 8-10-9 ... G Harker
6 13 FISHKI 69 (C,BF,S) M Hammond 5-10-9 ..... P Niven
7 1-P0 LANDSKI 17 (BF,F,S) W Storey 8-10-2 ..... K Doolan
8 0-03 PHOTINIA 14 (D,F,G) T Fairhurst 6-10-0 ... F Perrett (7)
9 000- DROPS OF GOLD 355 (B) A Mactaggart 7-10-0 ..... Mr D Mactaggart (7)

11-4 Hey Cottage, 3-1 Fishki, 9-2 Candlebright, 6-1 Casual Pass, 8-1 Gunner Mac, Landski, 10-1 Photinia, 14-1 others.

3.45 WESTERN MEETING CLUB HANDICAP CHASE (£2,846: 3m 110yd) (6)

1 P000 WITHY BANK 7 (D,F,G,S) Mrs S Smith 9-11-10 ..... R Strange
2 -02F GARBALLY PARK 55 (B,D,BF,S) T Tate 8-11-0 D Byrne
3 4-11 TARTAN TEMPEST 136 (D,G,S) G Richards 8-10-9 ..... N Doughty
4 4124 DUBIOUS JAKE 17 (B,D,F,S) R Woodhouse 8-10-1 ..... M Dwyer
5 040P BROWNHILL LASS 17 (CD,S) R Goldie 10-10-0 ..... G Scope (7)
6 2332 TARA BOY 188 R Francis 8-10-0 ..... S Storey

7-4 Tartan Tempest, 2-1 Garbally Park, 7-2 Dubious Jake, 8-1 Withy Bank, 16-1 Tara Boy, 25-1 Brownhill Lass.

4.15 DOONHOLM HANDICAP CHASE (£2,820: 2m) (6)

1 0-F3 BOUTZDAROFF 42 (D,F,G) Jimmy Fitzgerald 9-12-0 ..... M Dwyer
2 3-44 RINUS 10 (C,D,F,G,S) G Richards 10-11-12 N Doughty
3 1216 GENERAL CHANDOS 35 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs S Bradburne 10-10-12 ..... Mr J Bradburne
4 0234 JIM THORPE 19 (CD,F,G,S) G Richards 10-10-11 ..... L O'Hara (3)
5 -230 MERCURIUS 40 (CD,S) D Robertson 9-10-0 ... S Storey
6 13-4 NIGHT GUEST 17 (D,F,G) P Monteith 9-10-0 .....

6-4 Boutzdaroff, 7-4 General Chandos, 5-1 Rinus, 7-1 Jim Thorpe, 20-1 Mercurius, Night Guest.

4.45 CREE LODGE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,040: 2m) (11)

1 6-15 WILD ATLANTIC 30 (G) Jimmy Fitzgerald 6-12-0 ..... M Dwyer
2 1104 ANTIQUIAN SMILE 43 (D,F,G) S Wilkinson 6-11-13 ..... D Byrne
3 6143 DRUMHEAD 18 (V,BF,S) P Walwyn 5-11-11 ... P Niven
4 -546 WAYSIDE BOY 8 G Richards 6-10-13 ..... N Doughty
5 -622 VESTAL HILLS 15 J Hellens 5-10-11 ..... A Orkney
6 51 SEXY MOVER 14 (D,S) W Storey 4-10-5 ..... K Doolan
7 4F3 WAY OF LIFE 36 S Mellor 6-10-5 ..... Mr D Gray
8 000U PRINCE CEVA 73 G Richards 6-10-4 ... M Mahoney (5)
9 9-04 KALEIDOSCOPE 88 (V) T Goldie 6-10-0 ..... G Harker
10 598 KEY DEAR 14 Mrs S Bradburne 4-10-0 ... A Linley (7)
11 0005 MALPIERO 14 P Monteith 7-10-0 ..... L O'Hara (3)

3-1 Drumhead, 9-2 Vestal Hills, 5-1 Wayside Boy, 7-1 Way Of Life, Wild Atlantic, 8-1 Antiquian Smile, 10-1 others.

5.15 FREEPHONE LADBROKES HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,917: 2m) (8)

1 5-40 GENERAL PERSHING 19 (D,BF,S) G Richards 5-11-10 ..... N Doughty
2 11- BAY TERN 286 (D,G) Mrs S Bradburne 5-11-1 R Fahey
3 3224 CLAY COUNTY 17 (CD,BF,G,S) R Allan 6-10-11 ..... B Storey
4 0134 EASY OVER 84 (D,BF,F,G) G Moore 5-10-8 ... M Dwyer
5 00P0 STAY AWAKE 14 (D,F,G,S) J J O'Neill 5-10-5 ..... A Dobbin (7)
6 2125 PENDLEY GOLD 19 (V,CD,S) M Naughton 10-10-0 ..... F Murtagh (7)
7 0106 BELDINE 4 (D,F,S) P Monteith 6-10-0 ... L O'Hara (3)
8 65-0 VICTORY BOY 4 (F) T Cuthbert 13-10-0 ..... Carol Cuthbert (7)

5-2 General Pershing, 7-2 Bay Tern, 9-2 Clay County, 6-1 Easy Over, 8-1 Stay Awake, 10-1 Pendley Gold, 14-1 others.

Course specialists

TRAINERS: B Mactaggart, 3 winners from 11 runners, 27.3%; S Mellor, 3 from 12, 25.0%; A Mactaggart, 4 from 17, 23.5%; G Moore, 26 from 111, 23.4%; G Richards, 71 from 308, 23.0%; S Wilkinson, 4 from 24, 16.7%.

JOCKEYS: N Doughty, 36 winners from 168 rides, 21.4%; Mr J Bradburne, 7 from 36, 18.4%; M Dwyer, 14 from 80, 17.5%; A Merrigan, 8 from 50, 16.0%; D Byrne, 7 from 44, 15.9%; R Fahey, 4 from 29, 13.8%.

Blinkered first time

LINGFIELD PARK: 1.45 The Cuckoos Nest, Warwick Bay. 2.45 Sunset Street. 4.15 Springlakes Lady.

DONCASTER

Selections

By Mandarin

2.15 Granvillewaterford. 2.50 One For The Pot. 3.20 Perroquet. 3.55 Vulroy's Clown. 4.25 Lady Remainder. 4.55 Parsons Law. 5.25 Royal Progress.

By Thunderer

2.15 Granvillewaterford. 2.50 Rodeo Star. 3.20 Perroquet. 3.55 Vulroy's Clown. 4.25 Lonhshoreman. 4.55 He Who Dares Win. 5.25 Newlands-General.

Michael Seely's selection: 2.50 One For The Pot.

Brian Beel's selection: 3.20 Perroquet.

Going: good SIS

2.15 TICKHILL NOVICES HURDLE (£2,372: 2m 4f) (17 runners)

1 1241 GRANVILLEWATERFORD 49 (D,G) S Sherwood 6-11-12 ..... R Bellamy (3)
2 -112 HOPEFUL ALDA 14 (D,S) Mrs A King 5-11-7 ... M Lynch
3 4103 SINGLESOLE 44 (B,D,S) Mrs P Sly 6-11-6 ..... A Carroll
4 2245 AINSTY FOX 7 (G,S) B Ellison 7-11-0 ..... B Ellison
5 BEAURIGOO 137F C Tinkler 5-11-0 ..... R Fahey
6 6-P BENGAL WAY 89 C Tinkling 5-11-0 ..... S J O'Neill
7 000 COOL FELLOW 12 D Morrill 7-11-0 ..... J McLaughlin
8 -220 DAUNOU 27 S Christian 5-11-0 ..... G McCourt
9 06 FOSTERS FOLLY 57 J Wainwright 5-11-0 ..... S Turner
10 0P44 HOLT PLACE 14 N Smith 5-11-0 ..... W Irvine
11 00 JAN TOMORROW 58 B McLean 5-11-0 ..... R Garritty
12 22-5 MR VERGETTE 73 N Henderson 7-11-0 .. N Williamson
13 000P RAGGYMAN 11 J McConnochie 7-11-0 ..... J Shortt
14 0 ROCKVILLE 43 M Robinson 5-11-0 ..... I Lawrence
15 003 FROZEN FLAME 10 B McMahon 8-10-9 ..... T Wall
16 4-3P SMOKE 8 (B) J Parkes 5-10-9 ..... N Smith (5)
17 000 KINSUE 16 J Upson 4-10-5 ..... R Supple

15-8 Granvillewaterford, 3-1 Mr Vergette, 9-2 Hopeful Alda, 5-2 Daunou, 10-1 Singlesole, 14-1 others.

2.50 DONCASTER HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,152: 2m 150yd) (11)

1 3-14 ONE FOR THE POT 86 (D,BF,G,S) Mrs J Ramsden 6-11-10 ..... J Twomey (7)
2 0-P4 ARTFUL ABBOT 7 (D,F,S) J Webber 7-11-10 .. M Lynch
3 1-30 ANOTHER FREE 12 (D,F,G) Mrs A King 9-11-5 ..... M Crossan (7)
4 05P3 HOUGHTON 13 (D,G) M W Easterby 5-11-2 .....
5 0530 NORTHERN LION 15 (G) R Thompson 8-10-12 ..... B Dalton (7)
6 1186 RODEO STAR 42 (D,BF,G,S) N Tinkler 5-10-11 ..... G McCourt
7 4300 KINO'A SMART 10 (D,F,S) K Morgan 5-10-6 .. R Supple
8 120- GENAIR 140F (D,F) G Moore 6-10-3 ... J Callaghan (3)
9 0-62 THREEOUTOFFOUR 73 (D,S) O Brennan 6-10-3 ..... M Brennan
10 4302 NORTHERN BARRY 43 (D,F) J McConnochie 7-10-0 ..... J Shortt
11 681- MENTAB 367 (B,D) Mrs P Sly 5-10-0 ..... A Carroll

3-1 One For The Pot, 4-1 Threeoutoffour, Houghton, 5-1 Northern Barry, 13-2 Rodeo Star, 10-1 Mehtab, 12-1 others.

3.20 HAMBLETON HILLS HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2,057: 2m 4f) (9)

1 224- KERSA 327 (D,F,G,S) J Sykes 14-12-1 ..... S Sykes
2 54-1 MOUNTAIN CRASH 36 (D,F,G,S) A Forbes 11-12-1 ..... T Eley (7)
3 111- PERROQUET 327 (D,G,S) G Vergette 11-12-1 ..... Mrs H Vergette (7)
4 /1-0 JOHN CORBET 10 (D,F) J Thompson 8-11-11 ..... Mrs J Brown (7)
5 0/1- WHEEL TAPPER 360 (D,S) H Hutsby 7-11-11 ..... C Farrell (7)
6 P/R BOONERS 36 (F) R Lowe 11-11-7 ..... G Wilson (7)
7 P/3 SPORTING MARINER 11 (G,S) D Bloor 9-11-7 ..... D Bloor (7)
8 0/ WALNASCAR 651 Miss M Hamilton Ellis 7-11-7 ..... M Buckley (7)
9 0/ AMIABLE AMY 1242 J Boynton 7-11-2 .. E Boynton (7)

15-8 Perroquet, 9-4 Mountain Crash, 5-1 Sporting Mariner, 8-1 John Corbet, 10-1 Kersa, 12-1 Wheel Tapper, 25-1 others.

3.55 BAWTRY HANDICAP CHASE (£3,877: 2m 4f) (5)

1 P240 CAPTAIN MOR 35 (D,F,G,S) W A Stephenson 9-11-10 ..... Mr K Johnson
2 1333 VULROY'S CLOWN 12 (CD,F,G,S) O Brennan 13-11-7 ..... M Brennan
3 5025 MISTER POINT 16 (B,D,G,S) N Tinkler 9-11-0 ..... G McCourt
4 PP30 FOCUS ON FOSTER 78 (D,F) J Webber 9-10-0 M Lynch
5 U000 GAMESMANSHIP 11 (B,G) K Burke 10-10-0 .. R Supple

11-8 Vulroy's Clown, 5-2 Captain Mor, 11-4 Mister Point, 16-1 Focus On Foster, 20-1 Gamesmanship.

4.25 THORNE CLAIMING HURDLE (£2,006: 2m 150yd) (10)

1 00 PULL THE PIN 70 F Jordan 5-11-4 ..... J Ledder (3)
2 2335 LONGSHOREMAN 43 (B,D,BF,S) N Tinkler 4-11-2 ..... G McCourt
3 3-0 CATCH AT STRAWS 12 J Leigh 5-11-0 Gary Lyons (3)
4 SELOOSI IN 43F J Wharton 5-10-13 ..... S J O'Neill
5 3111 LADY REMAINDER 14 (D,S) Mrs J Ramsden 4-10-7 ..... J Twomey (7)
6 5140 WEAREAGRANDMOTHER 14 (D,S) B McMahon 4-10-7 ..... T Wall
7 0 ACCEPTED DATE 5 J Harris 4-10-6 ..... Mr A Walton
8 LIKE A PRAYER 218F J Parkes 4-10-6 ..... N Smith (5)
9 0 YOUNG BILL 36 Mrs J Ramsden 4-10-6 .. Mr S Swiers
10 00 IBN SINA 15 M Robinson 4-10-4 ..... I Lawrence

3-1 Lady Remainder, 9-2 Longshoreman, 6-1 Wareagrandmother, 10-1 Young Bill, 12-1 others.

4.55 AUCKLAND HILL NOVICES CHASE (£2,604: 3m 122yd) (6)

1 6P30 ALL OVER THE WORLD 10 (F) J Fort 7-11-4 .....
2 P3-2 ANOTHER NORFOLK 45 (S) B McMahon 10-11-4 ..... T Wall
3 2F0F HE WHO DARES WINS 10 (S) W A Stephenson 8-11-4 ..... Mr K Johnson
4 PR65 KAMEO STYLE 9 (F,G,S) F Jordan 8-11-4 J Ledder (3)
5 P0-4 WOODLANDS GENERIC 12 P Pritchard 8-11-4 .....
6 0F01 PARSONS LAW 14 (C,F,G) J Edwards 8-11-3 ..... M Williamson

11-8 Parsons Law, 7-4 Another Norfolk, 6-1 He Who Dares Wins, 12-1 Kameo Style, 20-1 others.

5.25 FINNINGLEY NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (£2,164: 2m 150yd) (18)

1 31 NUT TREE 19 D Wilis 6-11-12 ..... R Bellamy (3)
2 FRED FOR FUN R Thompson 5-11-10 S D Williams (7)
3 MAN OF MYSTERY C Tinkler 5-11-10 .....
4 MAN OF THE GRANGE O Brennan 5-11-10 B Ryan (7)
5 MASTER RAFFLES J Dooler 5-11-10 .....
6 3 NEWLANDS-GENERAL 12 Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-11-10 ..... W Dixon (7)
7 ROYAL PROGRESS S Sherwood 5-11-10 ..... Mr M Armytage
8 TIMURS LUCK T Caldwell 5-11-10 ..... R Hodge (7)
9 WHY F Jordan 5-11-10 ..... J Ledder (3)
10 51 SEE MORE INDIANS 5 G Blum 4-11-9 ..... M Hood (5)
11 FLOATS A J Wilson 5-11-5 ..... B O'Dowd (7)
12 6 HAYLEY'S LASS 36 J Bradley 5-11-5 . Mr A Farrant (7)
13 0 ARR EFF BEE 33 J Smith 4-11-2 ..... J Callaghan (3)
14 LAST MAN IN Mrs A King 4-11-2 ..... M Crossan
15 SPARTAN DREAM M Usher 4-11-2 ..... S Harris (7)
16 00 GALA'S PRIDE 17 J Parkes 4-10-11 ..... N Smith (5)
17 IN DEEP WATER J Colston 4-10-11 .. G Robertson (7)
18 THE QUIET GENIUS M Hammond 4-10-11 ..... D Beasley (7)

11-4 Newlands-General, 7-2 Nut Tree, 4-1 See More Indians, 5-1 Royal Progress, 8-1 Why, 12-1 others.

Course specialists

TRAINERS: N Henderson, 6 winners from 23 runners, 26.1%; J Edwards, 12 from 48, 25.0%; Jimmy Fitzgerald, 13 from 61, 21.3%; M W Easterby, 5 from 25, 20.0%; N Tinkler, 4 from 25, 16.0%; O Brennan, 6 from 39, 15.4%.

JOCKEYS: G McCourt, 8 winners from 30 rides, 26.7%; R Garritty, 3 from 20, 15.0%; Gary Lyons, 3 from 24, 12.5%; S Turner, 3 from 24, 12.5%. (Only qualifiers).

SANDOWN PARK

Selections

By Mandarin	By Thunderer
2.00 Amari King.	2.00 Springholm.
2.30 Requested.	2.30 Requested.
3.05 The Master Gunner.	3.05 The Master Gunner.
3.35 Bigsun.	3.35 Solidasarock.
4.10 State Jester.	4.10 State Jester.
4.40 Acre Hill.	4.40 Acre Hill.
5.10 Fast Thoughts.	5.10 Sun Ballad.
5.40 Lochingall.	5.40 Lochingall.

Michael Seely's selection: 4.10 Champagne Lad.

Going: good to soft (chase course); soft (hurdles) SIS

2.0 DICK McCREERY CUP (Handicap Chase: Amateurs: £3,376: 2m 18yd) (5 runners)

101 3-22136 SPRINGHOLM 8 (CD,F,G,S) (Brig C Harvey) D Nicholson 9-11-11 Capt J Wingfield Digby (7) 97
102 0/33042- KILBRITTAIN CASTLE 347 (CD,F,G,S) (W Whitbread) Mrs F Walwyn 15-11-4 G Oxley (7) ● 99
103 0/11F-10 AMARI KING 78 (D,BF,G,S) (M Ward-Thomas) T Forster 7-10-10 Capt C Ward-Thomas (7) 91
104 238P06 GEE-A 12 (F,G,S) (G Hubbard) F Murphy 12-10-7 ..... Cpt O Ellwood (7) 86
105 02FFU3 FUEGO BOY 8 (D,G,S) (A Darlington) A J Wilson 11-10-7 ..... Capt J Beardsall (7) 86

BETTING: 13-8 Amari King, 5-2 Springholm, 11-4 Kilbrittain Castle, 9-1 Fuego Boy, 12-1 Gee-A.

1990: SPRINGHOLM 8-11-7 J Wingfield Digby (7-2) D Nicholson 6 ran

2.30 HMS SANDOWN NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (4-Y-O: £3,847: 2m) (7 runners)

201 4F1 VENTURIST 16 (D,G) (H Allen) N Henderson 11-10 ..... R Dunwoody ● 98
202 0-F211 VIKING FLAGSHIP 25 (D,S) (A Holdsworth) M Pipe 11-9 ..... J Lower 94
203 1P REQUESTED 36 (D,S) (G Becke) R Akehurst 11-9 ..... L Harvey 86
204 1431F MARINERS MIRROR 77 (D,G) (Mrs M Scudamore) M Scudamore 11-4 ..... 2nd pref —
205 6U532 WOODSIDE HEATH 7 (M Power) J Moore 10-12 ..... A Charlton 90
206 22F3 DEADLOCK 4F (B) (R Richards) D Elsworth 10-8 ..... P Hedley 95
207 000F4 BULLACE 7 (P Dobson) K Morgan 10-7 ..... A S Smith (5) 97

BETTING: 9-4 Venturist, 7-2 Viking Flagship, 5-1 Mariners Mirror, 11-2 Requested, 8-1 Deadlock, 14-1 Bullace, 16-1 Woodside Heath.

1990: SWIFT WATERS 11-10 M Bowlby (11-10 fav) Mrs J Pitman 6 ran

3.5 BARCLAYS BANK HANDICAP HURDLE (Amateurs: £4,183: 2m) (9 runners) C4

301 2114/1-5 LYNEMORE 105 (CD,F,G,S) (Lady Cadogan) T Forster 9-12-0 ..... G Oxley (7) 82
302 1/0-13P0 THE MASTER GUNNER 57 (D,G,S) (Major-Gen R Burges) P Bailey 7-11-4 Maj C Lane (7) ● 99
303 6P2224 SHARPQUIN 12 (D,S) (V Young) V Young 5-10-13 ..... Capt J Beardsall (7) 96
304 6-22015 FAST STUDY 43 (S) (Brig C Harvey) D Nicholson 5-10-7 ..... Cpt J Wingfield Digby (7) 94
305 0/6521 FIVE LAMPS 12 (D,G,S) (Mrs C Holder) R Dickin 11-10-7 ..... Cpt O Ellwood (7) 96
306 3420-P1 BARON TWO SHOES 7 (B) (Mrs T Cockram) P Blockley 5-10-7 ..... Capt D Cockram (7) 92
307 11U042 DECIDING BID 36 (B,F,G) (B Pearce) J Long 5-10-7 ..... Capt C Ward-Thomas (7) 93
308 00-0060 CITY INDEX 22F (D,F) (Horizon Partnership) N Smith 5-10-7 ..... Maj P Holdsworth (7) 95
309 00P SOLO ARTIST 15 (B) (M Morrison) R Simpson 6-10-7 ..... Cpt F Wheeler (7) 95

BETTING: 5-2 Lynemore, 3-1 The Master Gunner, 6-1 Sharpquin, 13-2 Fast Study, 8-1 Five Lamps, 9-1 Baron Two Shoes, 16-1 City Index, 20-1 Deciding Bid, 33-1 Solo Artist.

1990: LYNEMORE 8-11-0 C Sample (9-4 fav) T Forster 10 ran

FORM FOCUS LYNEMORE 23½l 5th, hampered when beaten last, to M I Babe at Towcester (2m, good). THE MASTER GUNNER ran out at the last behind Gascon in Windsor novice chase; earlier 3¼l 3rd to Elder Prince with CITY INDEX 22¾l 9th at Haydock (2m, good to soft) in December. SHARPQUIN never nearer 13l 4th to Champagne Lad at Lingfield (2m, heavy); previously 1½l 2nd to The Widget Man at Warwick (2m, good to soft). FAST STUDY 16½l 5th to Cherryldno at Wincanton (2m 6f, good); previously placed 1st after ½l 2nd to subsequent scorer Riverside Boy in Cheltenham (2m 4f, good to soft) novice. FIVE LAMPS beat The Lighter Side 2½l at Southwell (AW, 2m 4f); previously ¾l 2nd to Singing Forever at same course (2m 2f). BARON TWO SHOES beat Avonburn 2l at Market Rasen (2m 6f, good to soft). DECIDING BID 4l 2nd to Hatsam at Lingfield (AW, 2m).

Selection: THE MASTER GUNNER

3.35 FOOD BROKERS ROYAL GAME HANDICAP CHASE (£5,148: 3m 118yd) (8 runners) C4

401 16-223U BIGSUN 67 (CD,F,G) (J Horn) D Nicholson 10-11-10 ..... R Dunwoody 97
402 P13P/22- THE DRAGON MASTER 382 (C,F,G,S) (R Waley-Cohen) R Waley-Cohen 9-11-7 J Frost 95
403 1355-26 SOLIDASAROCK 14 (D,BF,F,G,S) (L Randall) R Akehurst 9-11-5 ..... L Harvey 97
404 3-52PU4 MIDNIGHT COUNT 57 (C,G,S) (H Jost) J Gifford 11-11-1 ..... D Murphy 97
405 12-5313 LAST HOUSE 49 (F,G,S) (Mrs M Easton) Mrs S Hodgson (7) 96
406 133-634 ROWLANDSONS JEWELS 63 (CD,F,G,S) D Murray Smith 10-11-0 ..... G Bradley ● 99
407 311FUS UNDER OFFER 17 (B,G,S) (Miss S Douglas-Pennant) P Bailey 10-10-0 .. M Richards 80
408 41P/6-63 HALLO MATEY 18 (G) (S Hubbard) F Murphy 10-10-0 ..... S Curran (7) —

Long handicap: Under Offer 8-13, Hallo Matey 8-0.

BETTING: 15-8 Bigsun, 7-2 Solidasarock, 11-2 Rowlandsons Jewels, 7-1 The Dragon Master, 9-1 Last House, 14-1 Midnight Count, 16-1 Under Offer, 50-1 Hallo Matey.

1990: MEMBERSON 12-10-2 R Dunwoody (25-1) P Dufosee 7 ran

FORM FOCUS BIGSUN travelling strongly when unseated rider 6 out behind Seagram at Cheltenham (4m, good to soft) in January; previously 1¾l 3rd to Gallic Prince here (3m 5f 18yd, good to firm) with MIDNIGHT COUNT tailed off 5th. THE DRAGON MASTER ¾l 2nd to Feroda at Newbury (2m 180yd, heavy); earlier 1½l 2nd to Ten Of Spades on Ascot (2m 4f, good to soft). SOLIDASAROCK disappointing 26¾l 8th to Doollands Express at Kempton (3m, good); better judged on previous 7l 2nd to Arctic Call at Ascot (3m, good to soft) with MIDNIGHT COUNT (same terms) 7l 4th. LAST HOUSE 25l 3rd to Aquiller at Warwick (3m 4f 180yd, soft); previously beat Huntworth 12l at Newton Abbot (3m 2f 100yd, soft). ROWLANDSONS JEWELS 19½l 4th to Cool Ground here (3m 5f 18yd, good to soft); previously 22l 3rd to same rival in Coral Welsh National at Chepstow (3m 6f, good).

Selection: ROWLANDSONS JEWELS

4.10 IMPERIAL CUP (Handicap Hurdle: £19,300: 2m) (14 runners) C4

501 P01/024 YAHEEB 14 (D,BF,G,S) (Mrs A Fawcett) M W Easterby 7-12-0 ..... R Marley 82
502 152335 STRATFORD PONDS 18 (CD,F,G) (R Waters) O Sherwood 6-11-8 ..... A S Smith (5) 88
503 11/1 HONEST WORD 70 (D,G,S) (Mrs H Clarke) M Pipe 6-11-6 ..... J Lower 89
504 521/5-12 STATE JESTER 58 (D,F,G,S) (E Barber) W C Elsey 8-11-5 ..... J J Quinn 87
505 0-22151 AL ASOOF 19 (CD,F,G,S) (P Redding) P Hedger 5-11-5 (4ex) ..... M Richards 98
506 3-31521 STAR SEASON 48 (CD,G,S) (M Wheeler) R Holder 7-10-8 ..... N Mann 87
507 12-121 PRECIOUS BOY 42 (D,G,S) (M Johnson) M O'Neill 5-10-8 ..... L Wyer 84
508 112F33 LA CHINAGA 42 (F) (Duke of Atholl) G Balding 7-10-4 ..... J Frost 82
509 1-13226 COE 49 (CD,F,G) (M Blackburn) R Akehurst 5-10-4 ..... L Harvey 88
510 111202 OLD VIRGINIA 19 (D,BF,F,G) (Genmoss Ltd) R Akehurst 5-10-2 ..... — 91
511 02/000-5 MAGNUS PYM 7 (D,S) (R Standbridge) D Elsworth 8-10-2 ..... A McCabe (7) —
512 4-12204 BADRAXHANI 10 (D,G,S) (W Fagan) N Henderson 5-10-1 ..... R Dunwoody 88
513 14-0221 CHAMPAGNE LAD 12 (D,F,S) (P James) J Gifford 5-10-0 ..... D Murphy ● 98
514 4-31003 KETTI 16 (B,D,F,G,S) (S Houghton) D Grissell 6-10-0 ..... I Shoemark (3) 86

Long handicap: Ketti 9-8.

BETTING: 5-2 Al Asoof, 4-1 Champagne Lad, 11-2 Honest Word, 6-1 State Jester, 8-1 Yaheeb, 10-1 Star Season, Magnus Pym, 14-1 Precious Boy, 16-1 others.

1990: MOODY MAN 5-10-13 Peter Hobbs (20-1) P Hobbs 15 ran

FORM FOCUS YAHEEB ¾l 2nd to Houyan in grade III handicap hurdle here (2m 5f 75yd, good) on penultimate outing. HONEST WORD beat BADRAXHANI (9lb better off) 2½l at Newbury (2m 100yd). STATE JESTER 1½l 2nd to Olveston at Ascot (2m, soft) with AL ASOOF (same terms) 3½l 5th. OLD VIRGINIA (5lb better off) 3l 7th, KETTI (same terms) 2½l 10th; previously beat PRECIOUS BOY (same terms) 2½l at Ayr (2m, heavy). AL ASOOF beat Beech Road (gave 11lb) 5l at Fontwell (2m 2f, good to soft). STAR SEASON beat BADRAXHANI (5lb better off) 1½l at Kempton (2m, good). STRATFORD PONDS (7lb better off) ¾l 3rd, COE (13lb better off) 5½l 5th. COE 1½l 2nd to Wonder Man over course and distance (good to soft) penultimate with STRATFORD PONDS (11lb worse off) 1½l 6th. YAHEEB (5lb worse off) well beaten 12th. OLD VIRGINIA 2½l 2nd to Wishlon at Plumpton (2m 4f, good to soft) with KETTI (5lb worse off) 8l 3rd. CHAMPAGNE LAD beat Tilt Tach Flyer 10l at Lingfield (2m, heavy).

Selection: STATE JESTER

4.40 BURNT OAK & SPECIAL CARGO NOVICES CHASE (£4,120: 2m 18yd) (7 runners) C4

601 1425-1U ACRE HILL 71 (CD,F) (J Henderson) N Henderson 7-11-9 ..... R Dunwoody 91
602 3-31410 BEAU PARI 44 (BF,G,S) (G Radmore) J Gifford 7-11-9 ..... D Murphy ● 98
603 0-34211 MACARTHUR 4 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs A Henson) M W Easterby 6-11-5 ..... G Bradley 98
604 1/31124 WIDE BOY 43 (D,F,S) (M Popham) P Bailey 9-11-5 ..... M Richards 94
605 330E-U0 BABY SIGH 11 (F,G) (G Stickland) G Stickland 9-11-1 ..... Mr S Stickland 73
606 51P124 NAATELL 16 (F,G) (P Tory) N Mitchell 8-11-1 ..... D Skyrme 90
607 P0- MELICUS 343F (Mrs M Gordon-Watson) C Brooks 8-10-12 ..... B de Haan —

BETTING: 7-4 Macarthur, 5-2 Acre Hill, 5-1 Wide Boy, 13-2 Beau Pari, 7-1 Naatell, 33-1 Melicus, 50-1 Baby Sigh.

1990: BOUTZDAROFF 8-11-5 M Dwyer (6-4) Jimmy Fitzgerald 5 ran

FORM FOCUS ACRE HILL unseated rider 3 out when beaten in a contest won by My Young Man at Newbury (2m); earlier beat L B Laughs 1l over course and distance (good to firm). BEAU PARI beat Whats Your Problem 7l at Cheltenham (2m 4f). MACARTHUR beat Wait You There 5l at Sedgefield (2m, good to soft); earlier 6l 2nd to Last 'O' The Bunch at Catterick (2m, good). WIDE BOY 11¾l 4th to Fu's Lady in Wincanton handicap (2m, good). NAATELL 8½l 4th to Maris Buka at Wincanton (2m, good). MELICUS distance 8th to None So Wise in Windsor novice hurdle (2m 30yd, good to soft).

Selection: ACRE HILL.

5.10 FLYERS NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (Div I: £1,465: 2m) (22 runners)

1 BIREND

GOLF

Richardson casts his eagle eye on a second big prize

SANTA Ponsa — Steve Richardson, fast emerging star of the European tour, taking advantage of two strokes of luck at the same hole yesterday, is eyeing a second title in three weeks. The Hampshire player, winner of the Girona Open, is involved in a five-way tie for the lead at the halfway stage of the Balearic Open in Majorca.

Richardson feared he had fluffed a five-iron into a ditch at the 492-yard 6th; but the ball pulled up just short and from there he holed a 75-yard pitch for an eagle three.

"One moment I thought I was going to pay for being too adventurous — the next I've picked up two shots," the former English amateur champion said after a 69 that lifted him to a four-under-par total of 140.

Alongside him are Stephen Bennett, of Grimsby, after a best-of-the-day 67, Malcolm Mackenzie, of Sheffield (70), and Miguel Martin (71) and José-Maria Olazábal, of Spain, the overnight leader, who recorded a 72.

Olazábal opened with a double bogey six after his appeal for relief from a scruffy lie behind a tree was turned down, but battled back and remains favourite for the £45,825 first prize.

Seve Ballesteros, the defending champion, was struggling to survive the cut throughout his second round. He did so on the limit only after a 15-foot birdie putt on the 17th and a par four on the tough closing hole, where he rolled a 45-foot putt to within six inches of the cup.

It gave Ballesteros a four-over-par aggregate of 148 and, regardless of how he fares this weekend, he has decided to try to play himself into form and will appear in next week's Catalan Open in Tarragona.

The three-time Open champion, without a win since this event 12 months ago and struggling with a neck strain, earlier had two double bogeys and a lucky break on the short 7th. His tee shot found a pond left of the green, but there was so little water there that it bounced out and he salvaged his three.

"Eight shots are possible to make up, but it depends how you feel and I don't have any confidence at the moment," he said. "Nothing is the way I want it. I'm fighting a hook with my driving and I didn't putt well today."

His company, Amen Corner, are the promoters this week, so his presence in all four rounds was a great relief to them. Ballesteros ran up a double-bogey seven on the mammoth 654-yard 10th, but that was not the worst score there. José Rivero had a 10.

Richardson, one of the biggest hitters on tour, needed a one-iron for his third shot at the same hole and said: "I've never had to do that at a par-five before after two decent hits." He dropped a stroke, but recovered it with a 30-foot putt on the 14th.

LEADING SECOND-ROUND SCORES (GB and Ireland unless stated): 140: S Bennett, 73, 67; M Martin (Sp), 68, 71; S Richardson, 71, 69; M Mackenzie, 70, 70; J-M Olazábal (Sp), 68, 72. 142: C Rocca (It), 70, 72. 143: J Bennett, 69, 74; P-U Johansson (Swe), 71, 72; V Fernandez (Arg), 73, 70; J Rystrom (Swe), 73, 70; E Els (SA), 74, 69; C Mason, 74, 69.

144: S Hamill, 74, 70; G Day (US), 74, 70; M Pinero (Sp), 73, 71; B Barnes, 71, 73; S Ogle (Aus), 71, 73; M Moreno (Sp), 72, 72; E Romero (Arg), 71, 73; J Haeggman (Swe), 71, 73; D Feherty, 70, 74; B Lane, 71, 73; S Luna (Sp), 72, 72. 145: R Karlsson (Swe), 75, 70; K Trimble (Aus), 71, 74; A Johnstone (Zim), 72, 73; P Walton, 73, 72; J Parnevik (Swe), 74, 71; M McLean, 76, 69; V Singh (Fiji), 71, 74; F Lindgren (Swe), 72, 73; J Hobday, 74, 71; G Brand Jr, 72, 73; A Binagni (It), 73, 72; P Lonard (Aus), 73, 69.

146: P Hatt, 73, 73; M Lanner (Swe), 75, 71; C O'Connor Jr, 72, 74; D Durnian, 71, 75; M A Jimenez (Sp), 75, 71; M Clayton (Aus), 74, 72; J Townsend (US), 74, 72; J Anglada (Sp), 72, 74; A Forsbrand (Swe), 74, 72; M James, 72, 74; G Ralph, 72, 74; G Levenson (SA), 72, 74; D Cooper, 74, 72; C Montgomerie, 70, 76; M Fernandez (Arg), 70, 76.

Hurley surprises rivals and herself

KIM Hurley teaches at the Stisted club at Braintree in Essex, plays golf herself only once a week, had less than 24 hours' notice that she was playing in the Roehampton Gold Cup yesterday and, rather to her and everyone else's surprise, now finds herself the holder of the venerable trophy (Patricia Davies writes).

A first round of 74, one over par, left Hurley sharing the lead with Kathryn Marshall, the defending champion and, despite her relative lack of competitive experience, it was Hurley who performed better in the afternoon, returning a 76 to beat Sally Prosser, another professional, by a shot. Marshall (née Imrie) took three putts on each of the last three greens, and a round of 80 dropped her out of the money into a tie for fourth place.

It was Hurley's first victory in more than six years as a professional and was achieved with the aid of her boyfriend, who caddied for her but wished to remain nameless because he should have been at work.

"He gave me an earbashing every time I missed a putt, and I missed quite a few," Hurley said. "The only one I holed was an eight footer for a birdie at the last."

It was an important putt, for it won her the title, although the first prize of £360 will hardly help Hurley achieve her ambition of playing on the European tour. However, she still lives in hopes of a sponsor.

"I started golf at 15 and turned professional when I was 18 because someone said they would sponsor me but it fell through," Hurley said.

LEADING FINAL SCORES: 150: K Hurley (Braintree), 74, 76. 151: S Prosser (Wentworth), 77, 74. 153: C Waite (Swindon), 77, 76. 154: K Marshall (Montfleth Ladies), 74, 80; C Panton (Twickenham), 78, 76; J Forbes (unattached), 76, 78. 155: K Dallas (East Kilbride), 81, 74; N Way (Horam Park), 79, 76; S Moon (unattached), 77, 78. 158: C Hayllar (Blackmoor), 79, 77; C Hall* (Filton), 82, 74.

* denotes amateur

An orderly beginning

PETER Lane, an electrician, has hit his way into the record books with a 1-2-3 start. Peter, a 15-handicap player, is only the second man to achieve the feat.

His dream start was a seven-iron hole in one at the 200-yard 1st at Wareham Golf Club, Dorset. He then got a birdie two at the 184-yard 2nd and a birdie three at the 284-yard 3rd.

Lane, aged 51, said: "I didn't see the first shot go in but I knew it was on the right line. After the third hole I got a bit over excited and actually ended up scoring 1,2,3,5,4."

Peter, a golfer for more than 20 years, won the competition and scooped the sweepstake to buy drinks all round in the clubhouse. The 1st was his third hole in one.

William Ingle, of Scotland, began with a 1-2-3 more than 70 years ago.

Czechoslovak returns the glory days to Upton Park

MARC ASPLAND

Save and prosper: Miklosko shows the style in training that has made him such an invaluable member of West Ham's winning team

West Ham back in safe keeping

CLIVE WHITE

IF THE name of the ill-fated Allen McKnight lent itself all too easily to the cruel wit of popular newspaper sub-editors, the nationality of his successor as West Ham goalkeeper, Ludek Miklosko, from Banik Ostrava, left him even more obviously at the mercy of the pun-makers.

Czechoslovak headlines of the dud and bouncing variety, however, have been non-applicable at Upton Park this season as "Ludo" has repaid almost in full that cheque for £300,000 which West Ham wrote out for him in February last year. As any East Ender who knows his pony from his monkey will tell you, it is among the best money the club has ever spent.

Miklosko, by the admission of any West Ham player you care to talk to, is the chief reason why the team is heading back towards the first division and why it is still dreaming of FA Cup glory which it hopes to perpetuate a while longer by beating Everton in Monday's quarter-final.

Alvin Martin, one of the great West Ham stalwarts, put Miklosko's contribution in perspective when he said: "If Ludo ever goes down injured in five-a-sides, everyone panics. We all regard him as irreplaceable."

In a short space of time, the genial giant from Prosteov in central Czechoslovakia has won over the affections of the West Ham folk which had previously been reserved for Phil Parkes, his predecessor, who was also deemed to be irreplaceable.

The tie against Everton provides the home crowd with the perfect opportunity to size their man up against Neville Southall, who is still regarded by many to be Britain's No. 1 despite the emergence of David Seaman, of Arsenal.

Some people are reserving judgment on Miklosko, aged 29, until he comes up, probably next season, against the best but Everton should provide a sample of the "better finishing power" which Martin said that Miklosko must still face. Not that Martin expresses any reservations. "I can pay him no higher compliment than by saying if Southall was on the West Ham staff I'd rather have Ludo in goal."

His record this season is the envy of every goalkeeper in the League with the possible exception of Seaman. He has kept a clean sheet in half of West Ham's 38 league and cup and has yet to concede more than two goals in a game which is more than Seaman can say, bearing in mind, in particular, what Manchester United almost did to his reputation and confidence in a Rumbelows Cup tie.

Whatever West Ham supporters may think of Lou Macari, their former manager, they should be eternally grateful to him for signing the Czechoslovak. Billy Bonds is. He came highly recommended by Dennis Roach, a footballers' agent, who watched him 15 times.

Macari needed just one look at Miklosko to confirm that the hard sell was justified though the Professional Footballers' Association took a while longer to convince. "He has ability, athleticism and desire. I can't think of any ingredients which could make a better footballer.

Miklosko is determined to make a success of his move to England, for which he and his wife, Ivana (they have one son, Martin, aged eight) opted ahead of Spain; Atlético Madrid had shown a keen interest and there was talk, too, of Juventus.

Shortly after his arrival and speaking through an interpreter who accompanied him in the first month, he said: "When I left Czechoslovakia, the security guards spent a long time studying my visa and passport before saying to me: 'When are you coming back?'. 'Never,' I replied and I walked past them."

Yet despite that abrupt parting, he has, curiously, since leaving his homeland, regained his place in the national team and indeed returned to Czechoslovakia in November to win his 33rd cap in the 3-2 European championship win against Spain. Ján Stejskal, the man to whom Miklosko lost his place in the World Cup Finals and who, coincidentally, followed him to England to join Queen's Park Rangers, suffered a loss of form while his own improved.

As one might have a right to expect of a goalkeeper who measures 6ft 4in and weighs 14st 3lb, not a lot gets past him, including those shots low into corners. "Some of the things he can do are unbelievable for a man of his size," Ernie Gregory, the man who has been coaching West Ham goalkeepers for more than 30 years, said.

His speciality is an 80-yard upfield punt which turns defence into all-out attack at a stroke. His lack of English does not appear to detract from his ability to organise the defence ("Not that you would have guessed it against Plymouth on Tuesday," Bonds remarked). The only thing which seems to annoy him is the time it is taking him to learn the language, although, after English lessons three times a week, he is now starting to chip into dressing room conversations.

According to Martin, he tended to control his area by telepathy. His central defensive partner, Tony Gale, said: "You are continually going up for the ball and finding he's taken it off your head which makes a nice change at West Ham."

Parkes, who worked with the Czechoslovak for several months before rejoining John Lyall at Ipswich, thought that his temperament was one of his biggest assets. "He might get uptight with his own game but he doesn't get uptight with other people."

Parkes rates him "very highly" but like Macari he is among those reserving judgment. "He has this terrible habit," Parkes said, "as many Continental goalkeepers do, of catching the ball away from his body. I'd seen him miss a few in training so it came as no surprise when he let one in like that against Aldershot in the FA Cup. Having said that, he has a great pair of hands.

"Many people said that Mervyn Day would be the England goalkeeper for the next 10 years but he faded after one good season. The true test for Ludo will come when — please God — West Ham get promotion back to the first division next season."

HOCKEY

Benzies returns to lead attack

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

RUSSELL Benzies, the Scottish international who was on the bench last week, returns to lead the Teddington attack against the first-division leaders, Havant, tomorrow, in the Poundstretcher National League match at Broom Road School.

Teddington's plans to persevere with junior players have been thwarted by an England under-18 training weekend which has deprived them of Hauck, Wallis and Prestwich. However, with McGuire's rock-like defence at full back and with Blan in support, they hope to stem the flow of Havant's attacks.

Havant hope to have the injured Avery back for one of their two matches this weekend, the first of which takes place today at Havant against Lyons, in the fifth round of the Nationwide Anglia Cup.

Paul Barber, who finished a match in midweek with a broken thumb, will be missing from the Slough team to meet Bromley in the league tomorrow, and he must be considered doubtful for the cup quarter-finals on March 17. Bromley's sights are also on the cup, as they play a fifth-round match today against Isca.

East Grinstead are still without Jason Lee, who has not recovered from glandular fever, as they take on Indian Gymkhana in the same round of the competition today at Ardingly College. East Grinstead move on to Edenbridge tomorrow, where a victory over Isca could strengthen their chances of finishing in the top four in the league.

Hounslow, the first-division champions, are expecting to survive their fifth-round match today, against Doncaster at Feltham, but could find life more difficult in tomorrow's away league match against Old Loughtonians, particularly as Rees is not available. However Bolland, out of action last week because of hamstring trouble, is expected to play.

After their cup match today against Hounslow, Doncaster will move on for a crucial relegation tussle against Richmond in the second division tomorrow. Welton, another Yorkshire club, are fighting relegation in the first division and face the unbeaten Indian Gymkhana. Wakefield's hopes of survival depend on their away match against Stourport, and Cannock, who are also not yet out of the woods, can have only a faint hope as they entertain Southgate.

Hightown sense hope of toppling Slough

By ALIX RAMSAY

AS THE Typhoo national league enters the home straight, with only two matches to go before the end of the season, Slough are within 70 minutes of taking the title and confirming their position as the best club in the country.

All the champions have to do is beat second-placed Hightown today to give themselves a four-point lead at the top of the table. Defeat would leave the league wide open, with Hightown back in contention.

Two weeks ago, the result seemed no more than a formality but that was before Slough were beaten at home 2-0 by Sutton Coldfield, the title-holders' first defeat since the league was formed two seasons ago.

Sutton found Slough out of sorts from the start and made the most of it. Plagued by a series of injuries and unavailabilities, even the Slough coach, Ian Jennings, was unable to go to the match.

Jennings said: "Anything that was going to go wrong went wrong that day, but it made the girls realise that they win by performance and not by decree. The way they are training and the mood they are in, it makes you feel sorry for our next opponents."

While the defeat may have bolstered Slough's determination to win, it has also given hope to Hightown. "When we discovered they had been beaten it was like a lifeline for us," Maggie Souyave, the Hightown coach, said.

Scoring goals has proved a problem for the Liverpool club, although it does have one of the best defensive records in the league. While Souyave has the chance to make changes to ease the scoring problem, she is keeping her tactics a closely guarded secret, only saying the team needs 100 per cent commitment and some luck.

BOWLS

Norfolk pair pull off county first

MADELEINE Ward and Elizabeth Shorter, of County Arts, Norwich, became the first Norfolk players to win the Pedigree Films English women's pairs championship when they beat Margaret Norris and Eleanor Trotter, of Cumbria, 21-12 at Lawson Park, Bedford, yesterday.

Ward and Shorter led the Cumbrians 10-0, and at 13-9 on the sixteenth end scored four shots that consolidated a winning position.

In the triples, Paddington, 14-5 down against Angel, Tonbridge, and Nottingham, 16-5 down against Ipswich, both recovered to win their semi-finals by the narrowest margin. Paddington, skipped by Brenda Lines, took the mat up the green and won the last five ends.

Julie Thomas's triple, from Nottingham, also scored four on the penultimate end to go 17-15 in front, and then successfully defended their second shot on the eighteenth.

The champion of champions singles semi-finals were Jayne Roylance against Lynn Thelwell and Sharon Rickman against Margaret Dyer.

Guiseley are kept waiting

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL by WALTER GAMMIE

TROWBRIDGE Town and Hythe Town, the Beazer Homes League southern division rivals, will keep Guiseley waiting until at least next Wednesday to discover who their opponents will be in the semi-finals of the FA Vase on March 23 and 30. Trowbridge won the toss to stage the second replay after a 0-0 draw at Hythe on Saturday and a 1-1 draw at Trowbridge on Tuesday, both after extra time.

Hythe arrived back on the Kent coast at 3 am on Wednesday after an unscheduled tour of Bristol on the way home: the latest adventure in a season that is rapidly becoming a test of stamina for both clubs. Hythe have permission to call off their league match at Yate on Monday and immediately entered negotiations directed towards switching it to Sunday.

Trowbridge are enjoying a welcome season of success not even interrupted by John Murphy, the manager, going back to Cheltenham, his former club, for a month. A crowd of 1,656 on Tuesday and steadily increasing attendances in the league, averaging 480 this season.

They are also in the semi finals of the Beazer Homes Larchimage Cup, where their opponents will be either Waterlooville or, once again, Hythe who drew 2-2 in the away leg. The second leg has been postponed three times so far.

Trowbridge seem to have put their financial perils of the past 10 years behind them, the club having been able to buy back its ground from Trowbridge (1983) Limited, set up by John Fitchen, the chairman.

The other Vase semi final pits Littlehampton Town, the Sussex seaside club, who stepped straight into a Vase run from defeat by Northampton Town in the first round of the FA Cup, and Gresley Rovers, clear leaders of the Banks's Brewery East Midlands League. Gresley are determined to step up to join their local rivals, Burton Albion, in the Beazer Homes League. They use as a measure of their progress the respective crowds they drew on Tuesday last week: against Rocester Gresley were watched by 625, while Burton managed 781 for a top of the table Beazer premier match.

South Liverpool, of the HFS Loans League, have already been knocked out of next season's FA Cup and Trophy competitions for failing to share gate receipts on time with their opponents, Brandon United and Curzon Ashton.

TEAM NEWS

FA Cup, sixth round

Arsenal v Cambridge
Groves, Linighan and Campbell have recovered from injury for Arsenal, but Limpar is unfit. Cambridge await a fitness report on Wilkins; Baille and Dennis stand by.

Norwich v Nottm Forest
Forest will be unchanged; Hodge has failed to respond to treatment to a twisted knee. Crook returns for Norwich.

First division

Aston Villa v Luton
Platt, out for seven weeks, and Daley may join Penrice, the new signing, in the Villa line-up. Nogan, James and Harvey are in contention for Luton.

Chelsea v Manchester U
Chelsea omit Hall and Le Saux, through injury. United, without clearance to play Kontchelski, a Soviet trialist, will be unchanged.

C Palace v Southampton
Bodin, signed from Swindon, is set to make his first appearance for Palace. Rideout and Moore are doubtful for Southampton.

Leeds v Coventry
Strachan returns for Leeds, as might Snodin. Coventry, who gave Stuart Pearce his chance in League football, do the same for Andy Pearce.

Manchester C v Liverpool
Liverpool include the players who faced Arsenal last Sunday in their squad of 16.

Sunderland v Sheffield U
United await fitness checks on Booker and Barnes. Smith deputises for Hardyman, who is injured, in the Sunderland side.

FA Cup, sixth round

Tomorrow

Tottenham v Notts Co
Gascoigne has only 50-50 chance of playing, but need determines that he will.

Monday

West Ham v Everton
Midweek nose surgery could cost Gale a place in the West Ham side; Martin and Foster are available. Ratcliffe and Sheedy are expected to be fit for Everton.

Blooping down straight with high-speed Walker

SPORT ON TELEVISION

THE WEEK IN VIEW

BELIEVE this or believe it not, but I swear that when I talked with Murray Walker about the new motor racing season I had absolutely no intention of raising those little blemishes which the Americans call "bloopers".

Yet before our chat had advanced more than 90 seconds Walker himself had introduced the subject when I inquired when he made his first television broadcast.

"That was 1949, same year as I did my first radio commentary on motor sport. It was the Knatts Valley hill climb, in Kent — black and white, of course, and live. The motorcyclist who went furthest up the hill was the winner. Well, one of them fell off and though I couldn't see much I wished to reassure viewers that the rider was all right. So I told them that he seemed OK. That he had got up and walked away. Unfortunately, the picture they were seeing at home showed the rider flat out, covered in blood and far from OK. It was my first boob and I've been at it ever since."

He certainly has. His bloopers blow the mind. Oft-times, in a dull grand prix, they have been the only entertainment. Alain Prost was just about home and dry in one when Walker said: "And here comes the magnificent little Alain Prost. Nothing can stop him now." A puncture or something did, of course. "It was the kiss of death," Walker said, and he recalled Keke Rosberg pleading with him: "Murray, this is my last one. I am particularly anxious to do well. Please, please, don't mention me."

Murray Walker, at the age of 67, is almost a cult figure, a commentator in the Eddie Waring class, who was loved by the viewing public even though his rugby league commentaries at times defied belief. Most laugh with Walker rather than at him. But a few do get exasperated: among them, one suspects, James Hunt, who will ride shotgun at most of the 16 grands prix between Phoenix tomorrow and Adelaide in November.

How, I wondered, do Walker and Hunt really get on? "Good friends off the track" was the quick, firm response from Walker. "We are so different in background, attitude, style and temperament. It is probably because of that we get on so very well. Do you realise that we are in a situation where two people are sharing *one* mike. We do not have one each. I think that is a considerable achievement. Of course, there are moments of friction in the box when one hasn't got it when he thinks he should or he thinks the other is mouthing platitudes when something else is called for and he snatches the mike back!"

Walker envies Eurosport its ability to do all grands prix live and to cover the practice and qualifying sessions, but he stresses that BBC is not a 24-hour-a-day sports channel. He thinks that the satellite competition has ensured the BBC giving more air time and he expects "an incomparably better" racing season this year, because "five teams and nine drivers have it in them to win a grand prix."

Eurosport will again be covering all the races live and is introducing a 90-minute midweek show, *Inside Track*, that will go out simultaneously on The Sports Channel (Thursday, 8pm).

THE WEEK'S TELEVISION HIGHLIGHTS

TODAY: Day two of the world indoor athletic championships (BBC1, 4pm, and BBC2, 7.10pm). Linford Christie (200m) and Peter Elliott (1,500m) are due to run and Eurosport goes live to Seville during its *Saturday Live* show. *Grandstand* (BBC1, 2.50pm) features Rugby League's Silk Cut Challenge Cup-tie between Warrington and Widnes — the second half is live. ITV has that perennial Wembley show-stopper, the schools international with Scotland meeting England (from 2.40pm). The second one-day cricket international from Trinidad live on the Sports Channel from 1.30 pm and Eurosport will bring an hour's highlight 30 minutes after midnight.

TOMORROW: What Murray Walker predicts will be an "incomparably better" grand prix season roars off on Eurosport (8.30pm) with a preview to the season and the whole race live. Walker arrives on BBC2 with highlights from Phoenix (11.25pm). Either it is Gazza overkill or a *Match of the Day* expectation that Notts County will win their FA Cup-tie at Tottenham; the match is live on BBC1 (3pm). On BBC2 the Bath-Wasps encounter (5pm) is followed at 6pm by the final day of the athletics in Seville.

MONDAY: Football dominates with the most intriguing tie of the FA Cup — West Ham against Everton. The Sports Channel is live (from 7.30pm) and BBC1 has highlights (10.10pm). Screensport (from 8pm) has live boxing from Nevada.

TUESDAY: National Hunt's supreme Festival begins with the Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham. BBC1 opens up at 1.50 (switch to 2 at 3.55) with all its big guns. Julian Wilson, Richard Pitman, Peter O'Sullevan, Bill Smith, Tommy Stack and Jonathan Powell. Eurosport has live coverage of the opening ceremony at the world figure skating championships in Munich (7.30-9.30pm). An hour's highlights of the fourth one-day international between West Indies and Australia are on Eurosport (12.30am).

WEDNESDAY: The pairs take to the ice at Munich (live on Eurosport at 7.0 and 10.30pm and on BBC 1 at 10pm). Any FA Cup replay action on *Sportsnight* (BBC1 10pm).

THURSDAY: The big race and the big question — can Desert Orchid win the Gold Cup? The answer comes from Cheltenham (on BBC1 at 3.30). *Inside Track*, the new Formula One programme, goes out simultaneously on Eurosport and the Sports Channel (8.0pm).

FRIDAY: Helen Rollason previews the rugby match that will settle the five nations' championship — France at Twickenham, in her *Sport on Friday* show (BBC2 2.20pm), there will be highlights of the men's free programme. Eurosport shows the ice skating live at 12.30 and 7.0.

Lewis expands his empire

By ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

RICHARD Lewis might not like the word "supremo", but he effectively became one yesterday, when he was handed the unenviable task of reviving the fortunes of British men's tennis. Lewis's is the first face to be chosen in a restructuring of men's tennis after the dismissal of Warren Jacques three weeks ago and the fact that it is a familiar one comes as no real surprise.

The LTA has always operated on the principle of "better the devil you know ..." and so has resisted the temptation to advertise the job outside or to attract a big international name into the fold, at least at this stage, preferring to widen Lewis's year-old role as national director of training to include men's tennis.

The further expansion of his empire completes a remarkable rise to power for Lewis, aged 36, who first began to work for the LTA as head of national training for 18-and-under boys four years ago. Now only Ian Peacock, the chief executive, has greater powers.

On recent form, the new job is akin to being the next coconut on the shy at the fairground stall, but Lewis feels that he has the breadth of experience to succeed where his predecessors have conspicuously failed and to answer the inevitable criticisms that his appointment is a soft and all-too-predictable option. "Anyone who says that is wrong," he said. "I am the right person for the job and I think my track record stands up well for the job at hand."

Lewis has seen the game from most angles. In 1982, he was a key member of the British team which reached the semi-final of the Davis Cup; he touched 60 in the world — roughly 100 places higher than the best British player in the rankings today — and as a coach helped Hana Mandlikova to win the US Open title in 1985.

He has also spent enough time in the nether reaches of the game to know how tough life is at the bottom and enough time within the LTA to understand the strange workings of British tennis. He is realistic, not pessimistic, about the future.

"I don't think it's a question of having to start again, nor do I believe that it will take ten years to get it right," he said. "The problems at the moment are due to the stagnation of 20 years ago. A lot of good things are happening already and there are better players in the pipeline.

"We just have to focus all our efforts and our resources on producing young players who are capable of taking the step into the senior ranks. There are far too many players who are simply not good enough and we mustn't waste time on them. That might sound brutal, but it's right."

Lewis's first priority is to find a new Davis Cup captain in time for the tie against Poland in early May. In his appointment of Olga Morozova to work with the junior girls at Bisham Abbey, Lewis has shown that he is not frightened to attract the best and he might well try to use his considerable powers of persuasion to talk Tony Pickard into helping out.

He will also be responsible for appointing a national coach to dovetail with his own role, which will be more management and communication than coaching. "Bridging the gaps", as he terms it.

Though hardly a radical departure, Lewis's appointment at least means that British men's tennis will speak with one voice. Whether it is the right voice and whether the message will be any more acceptable than it has been over the last ten years, only time will tell.

☐ Wimbledon are considering using an electronic net cord at this year's championships. The device was used successfully in several tournaments in England last year but has not been tried before in a grand slam event. Experiments will continue before a recommendation is put before the full committee.

Familiar face of British tennis: a realistic Lewis laughs the pessimists out of court

Agassi fails to rise to the occasion

ANDRE Agassi, the second seed, became the latest top player to be knocked out of the Champions Cup tournament in Indian Wells, California, when he was beaten by No. 16 seed, Jim Courier, yesterday. Agassi joined the six seeds who were beaten in the second round on Wednesday when he lost his third-round match, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Guy Forget, the third seed, beat Derrick Rostagno, 6-3, 6-1, while the No. 11 seed, Michael Stich, defeated Fabrice Santoro, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4. Serving at 5-4 for the match, Stich unleashed four aces.

Agassi, ranked fourth in the world, said: "He got the right points at the right time. On the crucial points against him, he'd come up with the big shots. On the crucial shots against me, I didn't rise to the occasion."

☐ Mark Petchey won a personal battle to stave off two match points and reach the semi-finals of the Serve and Volley men's satellite indoor tournament at Telford yesterday. He beat Brian Joelson, of the United States, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 after being 4-6 down in the tie-break.

Petchey, angered by an earlier call, saved the first match point with a service and volley and the second with a backhand which Petchey hit into the net. Another fine service return took Petchey to match point and he ended the contest with a forehand volley

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wigan to outrun Northern threat

By KEITH MACKLIN

EITHER Bradford Northern are attempting to pull off a gigantic bluff, or the Silk Cut Challenge Cup quarter-final at Wigan tomorrow is a formality, with Wigan required only to engage first gear and coast home.

In their last two home games, Northern have succumbed to Sheffield Eagles and Oldham, with last Sunday's collapse against Oldham, who ran in more than 30 points, the low-water mark of the season.

Meanwhile Wigan have been moving menacingly up the championship table, and they dismissed Castleford in such a cavalier manner in the first round of the cup that there is already talk of a fourth successive Wembley win for the Central Park side.

Making matters worse for Bradford is the fact that Wigan will back to full strength with the return of their Great Britain utility back, Joe Lydon, after injury, giving them a choice of options in an already scintillating attack.

However, as history has proved time and time again, cups bring out the best and worst in sides, and Northern have beaten Wigan twice this season, once in a 31-30 thriller at Odsal and, more significant, in the Regal Trophy at Central Park.

In the latter game, the powerful Northern pack took charge with a display of sustained, fearsome tackling, which cut the ground from underneath Wigan's star runners. The Wigan coach, John Monie, is aware of this and said: "Perhaps we underestimated the power of the Northern forwards in that game. We will be ready for them this time and will attempt to move the ball wide to get away from a mid-field forward battle which would suit Northern."

The quarter-finals begin today with a visit from Widnes, regarded as the only side likely to halt Wigan's march, to their bogey ground, Warrington.

Widnes, whose forward Kurt Sorensen, from New Zealand, is desperate to go to Wembley, will have to be in top gear to avoid stumbling again in the battle with last season's Wembley finalists.

Salford are without Tex Evans and Steve Gibson for the visit to Oldham tomorrow, but are relieved that Frank Cassidy, their skilful half back, has escaped suspension. Salford are one of two second-division clubs still in the cup, and the big surprise of the day could be provided by Halifax, who are at home to the inconsistent St Helens.

☐ Featherstone Rovers have been fined £1,600 after their senior and A teams were involved in brawls during matches. The first-division Yorkshire club was fined £1,000 by the Rugby League's board of directors yesterday for the part of its players in a fight during last month's Silk Cut Challenge Cup tie against Sheffield Eagles, who were fined £400. Featherstone's A team were fined £600 and Oldham A £800 for their clash on January 4.

Half of each fine is payable now, with the remainder suspended for a year from the date of the game. David Howes, a spokesman for the Rugby League, said: "A brawl is when three or more players are involved and the punishment and suspended fines are to stop them doing it again."

CRICKET

England A round off tour with an illuminating show

From RICHARD STREETON IN COLOMBO

ENGLAND A, who batted more positively than at any previous time, ended their tour with a decisive win against Sri Lanka A here last night in the fifth one-day international. A 30,000 crowd, almost as many as has watched the rest of the tour put together, revelled in the novel spectacle of the first day-night match played in this country. England's win was by 51 runs.

England scored a daunting 246 for seven in their 45 overs after winning the toss and were far more purposeful than previously after losing the first four games of the five-match series. They fielded like demons under the floodlights and took several spectacular catches. Sri Lanka were left with an uphill struggle after Newport took three for 19 in his first five overs.

In succession, Newport had Kuruppu caught at slip, Wickramasinghe at deep square leg and Fernando down the leg side off a glove. As expected the ball swung wildly in the evening humidity and all three England seamers were profligate early on with wides. Ilott, who at the last moment replaced Pick — who was unwell — bowled four in succession in his second over.

Newport's successes, though, atoned for these lapses before Ramprakash and Illingworth subdued the batsmen with accurate stints of spin. Atapattu lost patience and was bowled as he charged Ramprakash and Jurangpathy skied a high catch to deep extra cover. With five wickets left, Sri Lanka needed 160 in 23 overs. Some spirited strokes from the left-handed Wickremaratne followed before the game rather petered out.

Morris, who won the man of the match award, was the dominant figure as England averaged more than five runs an over from the start of their innings. Halfway through it three wickets fell in the first three overs bowled by Jurangpathy, the off spinner, before Thorpe and Hussain were able to restore the momentum. Rhodes, Newport and Illingworth all hit firmly in the closing overs and England scored a decisive 44 in the last five overs.

Fairbrother, who opened the innings, pushed a catch to backward point before Morris and Blakey shared a vigorous stand worth 87 in 16 overs. Morris was fortunate on three occasions when he tried to sweep what to him were leg breaks from Kalpage. Each time he got a top edge but the ball landed safely. Otherwise Morris drove and pulled with great assurance.

Blakey survived a return chance to Edirimanne before he had scored but went on to drive freely on both sides of the wicket. When Jurangpathy bowled, Blakey drove his first ball over mid-off for six but three balls later hit a low return catch. In Jurangpathy's next over, Morris was adjudged run out by a direct hit from the covers by Wickremaratne though he seemed to have made his ground. England had fallen back a little and Ramprakash was next to go, sweeping a low catch to square leg.

Thorpe, however, led the way as the rebuilding started until he was held on the deep midwicket boundary. Hussain hit across the line as the final slog began but the last three batsmen ensured Sri Lanka would face an arduous task.

ENGLAND A

*A H Morris run out	54
N H Fairbrother c Kalpage b Halangoda	14
R J Blakey c and b Jurangpathy	39
M R Ramprakash c Wickramasinghe b Jurangpathy	10
G P Thorpe c sub b Kalpage	35
N Hussain b Ahangama	34
†S J Rhodes c sub b Kalpage	17
P J Newport not out	15
R K Illingworth not out	6
Extras (b 3, lb 9, w 10)	22
Total (7 wkts, 45 overs)	246

M C Ilott and T A Munton did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-35, 2-122, 3-125, 4-135, 5-190, 6-210, 7-222.

BOWLING: Edirimanne 6-0-43-0; Halangoda 6-0-32-1; Ahangama 7-0-33-1; Kalpage 8-0-53-2; Anurasiri 9-0-31-0; Jurangpathy 9-0-42-2.

SRI LANKA A

D S B P Kuruppu c Hussain b Newport	6
D Wickremasinghe c Thorpe b Newport	13
†N Fernando c Rhodes b Newport	6
M Atapattu b Ramprakash	24
H Wickremaratne c Thorpe b Munton	39
R Jurangpathy c Fairbrother b Illingworth	2
R Kalpage c Hussain b Munton	25
*N Halangoda c Rhodes b Ilott	0
D Anurasiri not out	29
C Edirimanne st Rhodes b Illingworth	15
S Ahangama not out	13
Extras (b 2, lb 2, w 14, nb5)	23
Total (9 wkts, 45 overs)	195

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-9, 2-34, 3-39, 4-82, 5-87, 6-134, 7-134, 8-148, 9-178.

BOWLING: Newport 8-0-39-3; Thorpe 1-0-8-0; Ilott 7-0-36-1; Munton 9-0-42-2; Ramprakash 9-1-25-1; Illingworth 9-0-33-2; Fairbrother 1-0-8-0.

Umpires: K T Francis and U Wickramasinghe.

Hick shows his class as he ends a jinx

SYDNEY (Reuter) — Graeme Hick may soon succeed where Viv Richards and Ian Botham both failed, by ending the longest running jinx in Australian cricket.

Queensland have never won the Sheffield Shield in 89 years of trying, importing some of the biggest names in the game to no avail. This season, things are looking different. Hick has scored three centuries in the past three games, taking his total of first class hundreds to 57 and Queensland to the top of the Shield table alongside New South Wales.

Hick, who was born in Zimbabwe, is eligible to play for England from April and will play only one season in Australia.

While the English touring side staggered to a 3-0 defeat in the Ashes test series, Hick was quietly learning how to adjust his technique to the extra bounce of Australian wickets.

Now, with the Australian season coming to its climax, Hick has unveiled his best and begun to perform at a level which shows comparisons with Sir Don Bradman are not so far-fetched.

Late last month, Hick's 112 not out in the second innings helped Queensland beat Western Australia by seven wickets with one over to spare.

The Zimbabwean-born batsman has followed that with 155 in the first innings against New South Wales in a match which could well decide who hosts the Shield final.

☐ Jim Love and David Hughes steered MCC to victory in the 42nd over of their one day match against Namibia at Windhoek.

SCORES: Namibia 134 (Reeve 3-14, Baldwin 3-19). MCC 135-5 (Love 61 not out).

SPORTS POLITICS

Africans give South Africa renewed hope

GABORONE (Reuter) — African sports officials expressed guarded optimism yesterday that a two-decade ban on sporting links with South Africa could be nearing an end.

"The recent political reforms in South Africa have had a lot of impact," the chairman of the Botswana National Olympic Committee, Ismail Bhamjee, said after a meeting of African sports officials here.

Bhamjee will host a meeting today between the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) and South African sports officials. The South Africans will brief ANOCA on progress since November in abolishing racial discrimination in sport.

The two sides met for preliminary talks in the Zimbabwean capital, Harare, last November, when South Africa was told to merge its rival sporting bodies into single non-racial units if it wanted to end its isolation from world sport.

The world sporting community banned contacts with South Africa in 1970 over its policy of racial segregation, apartheid.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has said South Africa must first be welcomed by its African neighbours before it is accepted by the rest of the sporting world. Bhamjee said hopes the ban would be lifted in time for South Africa to compete in the 1992 Barcelona Olympic Games were unlikely to be realised. "It would be more realistic to aim for Atlanta," he said, referring to the 1996 Games. South Africa will have another chance to prove the demise of apartheid when an IOC delegation makes a fact-finding visit there this month.

EQUESTRIANISM

International show given timely pardon

THE 1991 Royal International Horse Show, which was under threat because of lack of sponsorship, will go ahead as planned at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, from June 13 to 16 (Jenny MacArthur writes).

Alan Pascoe Associates, the new owners of British Equestrian Promotions, announced yesterday that it had secured financial underwriting for the show, which started in 1907. However, further sponsorship is being sought.

Sir Harry Llewellyn, the president of the show, said yesterday: "We are delighted with the news. The show is the oldest international horse show in Britain and the King George V Gold Cup and the Queen Elizabeth II Cup are two of the most respected international jumping competitions."

YACHTING

Smith wants special selection treatment

THE Royal Ocean Racing Club risks losing its leading One Ton Cup yacht and afterguard crew to the Australians for this year's Champagne Mumm Admiral's Cup (Barry Pickthall writes).

The Ed Dubois-designed yacht, now under construction at Cowes for a Turkish owner, will be campaigned in the series by some of Britain's leading sailors including skipper Lawrie Smith, Jo Richards, Dubois and members of Smith's Rothmans team. In order to compete, however, the team requires £100,000 for sails and training expenses. The only way it can raise this from sponsorship, Smith asserts, is if the Admiral's Cup selectors nominate the untried boat now for the team. Otherwise, they must take up an offer from Peter Briggs, an Australian businessman, and campaign the boat for Australia.

The ultimatum has not been well received in British quarters. Iain Macdonald Smith, who heads the selection team, said yesterday: "Their suggestion has come too late to stop a selection process first published in 1990. We now have six other boats of varying standards that have entered the trials which start with the Spi Queste Easter regatta in France. We are not going to take the risk of selecting an unproven boat.

"We would like nothing better than to have Ed Dubois and Lawrie Smith blitz the One Ton fleet ... but the crew has to decide now whether they are British at heart or merely a bunch of foreign mercenaries."

Smith said: "There has been a lot of talk about chartering foreign One Tonners for the trials, but I have yet to see any of this confirmed. Our boat is a reality and I have a top crew."

IN BRIEF

Dobson in debut

HELEN Dobson, the former British women's golf champion, from Lincolnshire, makes her debut as a professional in the Sunningdale foursomes tournament on the Surrey course from March 19 to 22. Dobson and Vicki Thomas will receive six strokes.

The title will be defended by two other women, Dale Reid, of Scotland, and Corinne Dibnah, of Australia.

BOXING: Greg Haughen, the world light-welterweight champion, has failed a drugs test. Traces of marijuana were found after Haughen beat Hector Camacho in a WBO title bout.

☐ Lindell Holmes retained his IBF super-middleweight title by beating Antoine Byrd on points in Madrid on Thursday.

OLYMPIC GAMES: The Chinese Olympic Committee has endorsed Peking bid for the 2000 Games.

RIFLE SHOOTING: David Chapman, of Baldock rifle club, has won a place at the 1992 Olympic Games by scoring 553 out of 600 in the European air rifle running target championship.

RACKETS: James Male needs just two games in his second-leg match against Shannon Hazell today to retain his Lacoste world title at Queen's Club.

TABLE TENNIS: Chen Xinhua will be trying to become champion for the first time while Desmond Douglas will be attempting to extend his record of titles to 11 in the English national men's singles championships in Stilebridge from today.

FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

World indoor championships

Men

60 METRES: First round: Qualifiers: Heat one: 1, M Rosegarde (Gdl), 6.74sec; 2, B Johnson (Can), 6.75; 3, A Lilo (It), 6.76; 4, L Torch (Sp), 6.78. Heat two: 1, V Bevin (USSR), 6.69; 2, A Berger (Austria), 6.71; 3, C Kavadingis (Tur), 6.74; 4, D Schultze (Ger), 6.77. Heat three: 1, A Simon (Cuba), 6.68; 2, O Zinjman (Ivory Coast), 6.71; 3, S Toray (Sierra Leone), 6.72; 4, F Gleason (Sp), 6.74. Heat four: 1, C Inoh (Nigeria), 6.69; 2, M Huke (Ger), 6.77; 3, E Akopyeran (Gre), 6.80; 4, J Volk (Cz), 6.81. Heat five: 1, A Cason (US), 6.68; 2, J Isaac (Cuba), 6.69; 3, C Seck (Senegal), 6.70. Heat six: 1, L Christie (GB), 6.61; 2, B Surin (Can), 6.64; 3, F Retzenberger (Austria), 6.73; 4, E Tuffour (Gre), 6.76; 5, S Richards (Can), 6.78. Semi-finals (first two plus two fastest losers qualify): Heat one: 1, Cason, 6.55; 2, Isaac, 6.63; 3, Rosegarde, 6.66; 4, Gleason, 6.76; 5, Seck, 6.76; 6, Akopyeran, 6.77; 7, Volk, 6.79; 8, Huke, 6.94. Heat two: 1, Christie, 6.56; 2, Inoh, 6.60; 3, Johnson, 6.62; 4, Berger, 6.68; 5, Toray, 6.69; 6, Schultze, 6.75; 7, Torray, 6.76; 8, Lilo, 6.77. Heat three: 1, Simon, 6.62; 2, Surin, 6.64; 3, Bevin, 6.66; 4, Tuffour, 6.69; 5, Retzenberger, 6.76; 6, Zinjman, 6.80; 7, Kavadingis, 6.82; 8, Kavadingis, 6.84. Final: 1, Cason, 6.54; 2, Christie, 6.55; 3, Inoh, 6.60; 4, Johnson, 6.61; 5, Simon, 6.61; 6, Isaac, 6.64; 7, Bevin, 6.66; 8, Surin, 6.68.

800 METRES: First round: Qualifiers: Heat one: 1, W Tanui (Ken), 1min 47.59sec; 2, M Tchotchoski (Bul), 1:48.74. Heat two: 1, A Bellessman (Alg), 1:50.41; 2, A Sudnik (USSR), 1:50.51. Heat three: 1, P Ereng (Ken), 1:50.46; 2, T De Teresa (Sp), 1:50.56. Heat four: 1, S Hoogewerf (Can), 1:48.21; 2, P Sepulda (Chile), 1:49.07. Heat five: 1, J Delinat (Ger), 1:48.25; 2, M Steele (GB), 1:48.28; 3, S Redwine (US), 1:48.61; 4, P Svoboda (Austria), 1:48.80. Match non-qualifier: 1 Bitay, third in heat one, 1:49.09.

3,000 METRES: Semi-finals: (first three plus four fastest losers qualify): Heat one: 1, F O'Mara (Ire), 7min 50.94sec; 2, J L Gomez (Sp), 7:50.69; 3, P Theisen (Pr), 7:50.90; 4, J Nayurtwa (Ken), 7:51.19; 5, M Kipsaral (Ken), 7:53.02; 6, M Kabousat (Tun), 7:53.73; 7, P Larkins (GB), 7:56.20; 8, Y Lagunov (USSR), 7:56.88; 9, S Franks (Ger), 7:59.52; 10, R Vera (Uru), 8:09.61; 11, J Norris (US), 8:09.34. Heat two: 1, H Boulahrajb (Mor), 7:48.62; 2, R Dengsoe (Den), 7:48.92; 3, J Scherer (US), 7:49.05; 4, M Goldberg (Den), 7:49.55; 5, R de Brouwer (Neth), 7:51.34; 6, M Mawulikuru (Rwanda), 7:51.37; 7, A Jimenez (Sp), 7:51.67; 8, K Jenkel (Switz), 8:03.98; 9, N O'Brien (Ire), 8:10.69; 10, D Ciamhayo (Burundi), 8:16.87; 11, T Abebe (Eth), 8:22.61.

Women

60 METRES: First round: Qualifiers: Heat one: 1, M Otey (Jam), 7.16sec; 2, G Torrance (US), 7.21; 3, M Onyali (Nigeria), 7.30. Heat two: 1, I Sergeyeva (USSR), 7.19; 2, P Davis (Bel), 7.20; 3, J Gunther (Jam), 7.27; 4, L Ravachina (Madagascar), 7.35. Heat three: 1, L Allen (Cuba), 7.21; 2, N Fiere-Coonan (Neth), 7.26; 3, S Douglas (GB), 7.31; 4, A Phillipp (Ger), 7.36. Heat four: 1, S Hamkjold (Fin), 7.23; 2, K Krabbe (Ger), 7.26; 3, M Finn (US), 7.27; 4, B Kinch (GB), 7.28. Semi-finals (first four qualify for final): Heat one: 1, Otey, 7.08; 2, Torrance, 7.15; 3, Krabbe, 7.19; 4, Hamkjold, 7.20; 5, Kinch, 7.23; 6, Onyali, 7.32; 7 Hutchen, 7.43; 8, Ravachina, 7.47. Heat two: 1, Sergeyeva, 7.10; 2, Davis, 7.20; 3, Finn, 7.23; 4, Allen, 7.24; 5, Fiere-Coonan, 7.28; 6, Gunther, 7.29; 7, Douglas, 7.32; 8, Phillipp, 7.47. Final: 1, Sergeyeva, 7.02 (championship record); 2, Otey, 7.08; 3, Allen, 7.12; 4, Torrance, 7.13; 5, Davis, 7.18; 6, Krabbe, 7.20; 7, Finn, 7.23; 8, Hamkjold, 7.25.

400 METRES: First round: Qualifiers: Heat one: 1, J Miles (US), 53.86sec; 2, K Schreitzer (Ger), 54.00; 3, A Pronti (Switz), 54.01; 4, I Danis (Rom), 54.38. Heat two: 1, D Dixon (US), 52.72; 2, S Myers (Sp), 53.01; 3, V Spence-Gardener (Jam), 53.34; 4, L Dzhigalova (USSR), 53.67; 5, R Edeh (Can), 54.63. Heat three: 1, A Yurchenko (USSR), 52.15; 2, N Batori (Hun), 52.80; 3, J Marino (Sp), 52.88.

800 METRES: First round: Qualifiers: Heat one: 1, E Kovacs (Rom), 2min 00.86sec; 2, A Mickey (Ire), 2:03.08; 3, G Leech (Ger), 2:03.70; 4, M Rydz (Pol), 2:04.03; 5, D Burkenova (USSR), 2:05.00. Heat two: 1, C Wachter (Ger), 2:03.24; 2, V Bacles (Rom), 2:03.50; 3, C Crooks (Can), 2:03.70; 4, J Clark (US), 2:03.84. Heat three: 1, L Gurova (USSR), 2:05.37; 2, S Stewart (Aus), 2:05.54; 3, M Murray (US), 2:05.64.

3 KILOMETRES WALK: Heats: Qualifiers: Heat one: 1, I Salvador (It), 12min 33.28sec; 2, Y Nikolayeva (USSR), 12:34.73; 3, B Anders (Ger), 12:35.27; 4, O Sanchez (Sp), 12:47.80; 5, Z Zambova (Cz), 13:05.38; 6, V Heacock (US), 13:15.99. Heat two: 1, A Sidoti (It), 13:05.10; 2, O Kardapoltsova (USSR), 13:08.49; 3, K Born (Ger), 13:05.47; 4, K Saxby (Aus), 13:06.38; 5, E Cano (Sp), 13:16.06; 6, M Ramon (Ec), 13:28.19.

HIGH JUMP: Qualifiers: O Lina (Sr), T Bykova (USSR), Y Henry (US), Y Rodina (USSR), H Hartkul (Ger), D Janowitz (Pol), A Bradburn (US), M del Mar Martinez (Sp), S Nowakowa (Cz), B Holub (Pol), H Haugland (Nor), H Baltz (Ger), S Lesnik (Bul), D Marti (GB) and K Kitzi (Fin), all 1.87m.

LONG JUMP: Qualifiers: H Drechsler (Ger), 6.66m; L Berezniayia (USSR), 6.64; V Uschedalu (It), 6.58; M Ilcu (Romania), 6.53; I Kravets (USSR), 6.51; R Pyatkenko-Maslova (Den), 6.49; M Stelmes (Aus), 6.46; M Dulgheru (Rom), 6.45; L Nimova-Rudolf (Austria), 6.36; R Rapo (Fin), 6.35; N Montalvo (Cuba), 6.34; C Lewis (US), 6.30; C Greiner (US), 6.27.

SNOOKER

MATCHROOM LEAGUE: D Mountjoy (Wales) bt N Foulds (Eng), 5-3.

BOWLS

BEDFORD: Pedigree Plate English women's championship: Champion of Champions singles: First round: D Mascot (Cheshunt) bt J Stone (Heartwood), 21-15; J Roylance (North Walsham) bt E Vigor (Croydon), 21-18; P Smith (Wealden) bt P Howell (Sunbury), 21-20; L Thalwell (Handycross) bt J Lee (Coldwald), 21-7; S Rickman (King George Field) bt P Prood (Isle of Wight), 21-14; J Reeve (Carrowgate) bt N Wilson (Nottingham), 21-18; M Dyer (Clevedon) bt C Moss (Kent Ladies), 21-16; J Jones (Bowlers) bt H Haynes (Hurmpdon and Godmanchester), 21-13. Pairs: Semi-finals: County Arms (C Ward and E Shorter) bt Croydon (E Vigor and T Barton), 19-9; Cumbria (M Norris and E Trotter) bt Handycross (A Cox and L Thalwell), 21-19. Final: County Arms, Norwich bt Cumbria, 21-12. Triples: Final round: Park Hall (C Hudson) bt York (M Wrigglesworth), 21-19; Angel (J Campbell) bt Croydon (E Vigor), 23-8; Way Valley (B Handcock) bt Essex County (W Barber), 14-13; Paddington (B Linse) bt Athenry (C Crouch), 19-12; Ipswich (H Boone) bt Bell (J Carrel and Southwest Durham (J Hull), 21-15; Exonia (A McCambridge) bt Taunton Deane (J Llewellyn), 13-12; Nottingham (J Thomas) bt City of Ely (P Carrott), 18-12; Eastbourne (J Collins) bt Riverhill (S Page), 21-6. Quarter-finals: Angel bt Paddington, 28-12; Paddington bt Way Valley, 18-13; Ipswich bt Exonia, 15-11; Nottingham bt Eastbourne, 17-13. Semi-finals: Paddington bt Angel, 15-14; Nottingham bt Ipswich, 17-16. COUNTY MATCHES: Essex 125, Cambridge 120; Warwick 154, Oxford 116.

BOXING

MADRID: IBF super-middleweight championship: Lindell Holmes (US, holder) bt Antoine Byrd (US), pts.

SKIING

VOSS, Norway: Freestyle World Cup: Ballet: Men: 1, R Pierce (Can), 29.85pts; 2, D Walker (Can), 29.50; 3, R Kristiansen (Nor), 29.40; 4, L Spiga (US), 29.05. Women: 1, E Breen (US), 27.65; 2, J Bucher (US), 27.70; 3, C Kiesling (Switz), 27.05; 4, S Petzold (US), 22.55.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Off/P	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm) + temp °C	Last snow fall
AUSTRIA							
Kitzbühel	0	70	slushy	heavy	closed	fair 18	22/2
Best skiing before 1pm. Snow cover thin and slushy							
Obergurgl	50	100	slushy	heavy	slushy	cloud 8	16/2
High winds closed upper slopes, heavy conditions.							
St Anton	30	180	good	heavy	good	cloud 11	3/3
New snow forcast. Good bumps skiing to be found.							
SWITZERLAND							
Crans Montana	30	210	icy	heavy	worn	wind 5	2/3
Many lifts closed by high winds. Good but icy cover							
Grindelwald	5	50	worn	heavy	worn	fohn 16	3/3
All lifts and train closed by high winds.							
Klosters	0	45	fair	heavy	poor	cloud 14	22/2
Some lifts closed by winds, but good skiing available.							
Saas Fee	75	260	good	heavy	slushy	rain 5	8/3
New snow above 2000 m giving good skiing.							
St Moritz	45	65	good	varied	heavy	wind 7	7/3
Wind affected skiing and warmer today.							
Villars	15	45	worn	heavy	closed	fohn 12	28/2
Winds dropping and lifts reopening. Heavy snow allover.							
Zermatt	45	135	good	heavy	poor	rain 8	8/3
High winds and fresh wet snow giving avalanche danger.							

In the above reports, supplied by representatives of the Ski Club of Great Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U to upper.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Phoenix Suns 108, Atlanta Hawks 104; Indiana Pacers 145, Denver Nuggets 125; Seattle SuperSonics 91, Minnesota Timberwolves 86; Houston Rockets 122, Dallas Mavericks 90; Milwaukee Bucks 88, Los Angeles Lakers 94; San Antonio Spurs 111, New Jersey Nets 98; Golden State Warriors 122, Cleveland Cavaliers 92.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' CUP: Quarter-final pool: Maccabi Tel Aviv 78, Barcelona 88; Pop 84 Split 93, Aris Salonika 63, Scavolini Pesaro 89, 111, Bayer Leverkusen 102. Women: Elektrika Leningrad 84, Arvita (Gdansk) 79; Astara Atlanta (Fr) 101, Cesena (It) 108.

BILLIARDS

SHEFFIELD: Stratchan UK professional championship: Second round: B Close (Eng) bt F Davis (Eng), 628-421; R Foldvari (Aus) bt M Ferreira (India), 639-348; P Gilchrist (Eng) bt J Kothari (India), 537-319; M Russell (Eng) bt J Karnehm (Eng), 669-472; I Williamson (Eng) bt H Nimmo (Scot), 539-277; J Murphy (Eng) bt R Edmonds (Eng), 713-541; G Sethi (India) bt P Cowley (Eng), 1,142-601; D Edwards (Wales) bt N Dagley (Eng), 688-547.

STUDENT SPORT

SAPPORO: World Student Winter Games: Speed skating: Men: 500m: Final: 1, Kim Ki-Hoon (S Kor), 45.40sec; 2, W O'Reilly (GB), 45.65; 10, Kim Ki-Ho (S Kor), 46.05; 14, Kim Ki-Ho (S Kor), 46.65. Women: 500m: Final: 1, Li Chengdong (China), 48.75sec; 5,000m: 1, H Warnicke (Ger), 7min 44.97sec. Nordic skiing: Women: 10km: 1, Miwa Ohba (Japan), 45:08.8. Alpine skiing: Women: Giant slalom: 1, C Schnichauer (Switz), 2:24.26. Ice hockey: Medal round: Finland 16, North Korea 4; Canada 6, Soviet Union 4; Japan 11, South Korea 3.

RUGBY FIVES

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Alleyns, Dulwich 65, Eastbourne Coll 139; Blundells II 103, Clifton II 131; Blundells Cyts 71, Clifton Cotts 147; Clifton 122, Coltfon's 13; Clifton II 132, Colston's II 19.

EQUESTRIANISM

CROOKHAM, Hampshire: Pedigree Chum Horse Trials: Novice Section A: 1, Nimbus (S Lindbeck), 28pts; 2, Merry Gamster (P Notes), 39; 3, The Maverick (R Durrand), 37. Section B: 1, Snap Dragon (R Adams), 33; 2, The Woodman (J Clements), 38; 3, Scarve (G Cooper), 39. Section C: 1, Another Owen (J Wilson), 25; 2, Flying Scot (A Barnie, NZ), 30; 3, Applejack II (B Palmer), 35. Section D: 1, May Hill (M Todd, NZ), 28; 2, Brookside Splashing (S Duke), 34; 3, Buckley Province (L Bevan), 35. Section E: 1, Pollerris (A Nicholson, NZ), 29; 2, South Shore (C Lewis), 33; 3, The Artichoke (R Micklethwaite), 38.

CRICKET

SHEFFIELD SHIELD: Sydney: Queensland 375 (S Hick 155, W Holdsworth 4-65); New South Wales 270-2 (M Bevan 87 not out, G Small 85 not out). Melbourne: South Australia 300 (P Nobes 82, A Hilditch 71, P Raffel 5-59); Victoria 171-4 (J Siddons 50). Hobart: Tasmania 199 and 100-2; Western Australia 264 (D Gilbert 5-68).

GOLF

CORAL SPRINGS, California: Honda Classic: Leading first-round scores (United States unless stated): 67: R Floyd, D Halldorson (Sch), J Mudd, J Lloyd. 68: B Mason, K Perry, D A Weibring, C Strange, R Thompson, S Andrade, P Azinger, J Daly, J Haas. 69: B Wolcott, J Huston, S Pate, M Springer, B Bryant, E Aubrey, B McChesney, G Norman (Aus), M Sullivan. 70: D Barr (Carr). 71: B Elkington (Aus), F Couples. 72: B Langer (Ger).

POWAY, California: LPGA Inamori Classic: Leading first-round scores (United States unless stated): 67: C Rinker, R Weiskopf, M Foyer. 68: L Davies (GB), T Barnett, J Dickinson, J Paxon, S Hamlin. 71: P Pulz (Aus), N White (Can), A Okamoto (Japan). Other British scores: 72: T Johnson. 76: P Wright, C Pleace. 78: K Davies.

PARAPARAUMU: New Zealand Open: Leading second-round scores: 133: R Davis (Aus), 67, 66. 134: T Power (Aus), 67, 67. 136: J Morse (US), 67, 69; F Nobilo (NZ), 68, 68. 138: G Joyner (Aus), 68, 68.

TOKYO: Daiichi Pulleon Cup: Leading second-round scores (Japan unless stated): 136: B Jones (Aus), 68, 68. 137: R MacKay (Aus), 71, 66; Kiyoshi Murota, 68, 69. 138: Yasio Ozaki, 72, 66; Toshiyuki Nakajima 71, 67; Satoshi Kaneki, 70, 68; Toru Nakamura, 70, 68; Kiyoshi Maita, 68, 70.

JAKARTA: Indonesian Open: Leading third-round scores (Taiwan unless stated): 206: Chen Liang-Hsi, 68, 70, 68. 208: Wang Ter-Chang, 70, 71, 67. 209: Kuo Chie Hsiung, 68, 69, 72; Li Wen Shang, 69, 71, 70; F Minoza (Fil), 68, 73, 68.

YACHTING

BOC SINGLE-HANDED ROUND THE WORLD RACE: Third stage (Sydney to Punta del Este): Class 1: 1, General Concorde (A Gautier, Fr), 31days 3hr 21min; 2, Groupe Sorela (C Auguin, Fr), 32:13:39; 3, Innkeeper (D Adams, Aus), 33:02:23; 4, Duracell (M Plant, US), 33:08:59. Overall: 1, General Concorde, 99:19:59; 2, Groupe Sorela, 97:08:25; 3, Duracell, 102:19:12; 4, Innkeeper, 107:02:12. Other positions (at 10.00 GMT yesterday, with miles to Punta del Este): 5, Breakair (B Reed, SA), 325; 6, Jersey (V Birtles, Aus), 339. 7, Elizabeth PC (I Autissier, Fr), 349; 8, Alba Regia (Hungary), 356; 9, Sibir Expo '92 (J Ugarte, Sp), 370; 10, Credit Agricole (P Jeanroit, Fr), 403. Class 2: 1, Servers (Y Dupasquier, Fr), 459; 2, Sussexup (D McIntyre, Aus), 602; 3, Project City Kids (J Boys, US), 901; 4, New Spirit of Ipswich (J Ish, GB), 1,089; 5, Saonjo (N Roth, US), 3,378. Cadettes class: 1, Volcano (P Thacksberry, US), 1,460; 2, Global Exposure (R Davis, GB), 1,605; 3, Shutandohji (M Cello, Japan), 1,978.

SQUASH RACKETS

PIRR'S PREMIER LEAGUE: Samman Broom (Norfolk) 3, Dedzes Rackets (Essex) 2; GKS Caversham (Berkshire) 3, Spain Bros Lingfield (Surrey) 2; Newton Abb

SPORT

SUMMARY

Ready for the off

THE Formula One motor racing season opens tomorrow in Phoenix and while car designs, driver combinations and regulations may have changed, some things remain the same. The leading protagonists from last year, Ayrton Senna, above, and Alain Prost, are in disagreement. On the eve of the United States grand prix, the two expressed opposing views on the change in the points-scoring system which awards ten for a win, one more than last season, and all points to count. Senna, the world champion, is in favour of the best 11 results to count whereas Prost's consistent driving style is best suited by the new system. Norman Howell reports from the Arizona street circuit.....Page 35

RUGBY UNION

Clubs first

THE Courage Clubs champions meet the first division leaders today for a match which could decide the destination of this season's title. David Hands suggests that the internationals of Wasps and Bath might be casting envious eyes towards Harlequins, who have no fixture before tomorrow's England training.....Page 36

GOLF

To the fore

MAKING her bow as a professional at the Sunningdale foursomes later this month is Helen Dobson, above, the former British women's champion. The Lincolnshire player, who played in the Curtis Cup against the United States last year, has recovered from an elbow injury to enter the tournament from March 19 to 22. Reports from the Open de Baleares and Roehampton Gold Cup .....Page 38

CRICKET

Final flourish

A CROWD of 30,000 in Colombo witnessed the first day-night match in Sri Lanka and saw England A end their tour on a positive note with a decisive win in the fifth one-day international.....Page 39

TENNIS

Court change

RICHARD Lewis, above, has been entrusted with reviving the fortunes of British men's tennis. Andrew Longmore looks at the man who has enjoyed a remarkable four-year rise in the Lawn Tennis Association from head of boys' national training to a task which many would consider unenviable.....Page 39

RACING

Stable talk

DAVID Elsworth may be apprehensive about the chances of Desert Orchid capturing the Tote Gold Cup for the second time at Cheltenham next week but others at his Hampshire stables are more bullish. Michael Seely reports .....Page 36

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D 5

Christie pipped by Cason

From DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, SEVILLE

LINFORD Christie and Ben Johnson were both beaten to the world indoor 60 metres title yesterday in the first race between them since Johnson's Olympic disgrace in 1988. André Cason, aged 22, and second to Christie in an international match in Glasgow last weekend, was the unexpected winner.

While Christie and Johnson were locked in the greatest scandal in Olympic history three years ago, Cason was just becoming world junior 100 metres champion. Yesterday, he came of age by taking his first world title and denying Christie his.

Watched by Juan Antonio Samaranch, the International Olympic Committee president, for the first time since he failed a drugs test and was disqualified from his gold medal in Seoul, Johnson received the warmest welcome of all eight finalists from spectators in the San Pablo Stadium.

He gave them a false start at the first attempt and was nothing like the Johnson we used to know when he fired from the blocks. But it was good enough to beat Christie away and Britain's European champion had to run him down.

But he could not do that to Cason in the way he had in Glasgow, where he passed him with three metres to run. Cason had shown he was to be reckoned with in the heats and semi-finals in which he was the fastest, recording 6.52secand 6.55. His gold medal-winning time was 6.54, with Christie on 6.55 and Chidi Imoh, of Nigeria, third in 6.60. Johnson had to settle for equal fourth with the Cuban, Andres Simon, on 6.61.

There was an upset, too, in the women's 60 metres, which produced the first defeat in two years and more than 70 races for Merlene Ottey, of Jamaica. Poor Katrin Krabbe, too. After her glorious European championships, in which she scored a sprint double, she was sixth here. Irina Sergeyeva, of the Soviet Union, beat both of them to take the title in 7.02sec, only 0.02sec outside the world record.

At 22, the same as Cason, Sergeyeva has come to the surface suddenly after finishing sixth in the European 100 metres final last summer. And to think that only three years ago she was a long jumper first and sprinter second.

Britain brought a squad of 21, one third of whom were required to perform in the first session of the championships yesterday morning. Ikem Billy failed to progress in the 800 metres, which gave him the ignominious distinction of being the only Briton to be knocked out before the opening ceremony; the ceremony preceded the afternoon session.

Martin Steele is trying to do a Matthew Yates and take an 800 metres medal in his first international championship. Yates won a Commonwealth bronze last year and, with Paul Ereng and William Tanui here, third is probably the best Steele can hope for.

He looked new to this level in his heat, becoming detached from the field on the second of four laps; then, on the third, he moved up to second, only to let the Argentine, Luis Migueles, inside him.

However, Steele had said that his outstanding quality was his finishing strength and here was the evidence. He had the best last 50 metres of anyone in his heat and, in the end, looked a comfortable qualifier.

With 1min 48.28sec, behind the heat winner, Joachim Dehmel, of Germany, Steele took one of the two automatic places in today's semi-finals.

Debbie Marti, who equalled the British high jump record of 1.94 metres last month, qualified for today's final, though she needed three attempts at 1.87 metres to do so. Marti is making up for lost time. Seven years ago, she was over looked for the Los Angeles Olympic Games on the grounds of her age, 16; then she went down with Myocardic Encephalomyelitis (ME) and only now, at 22, is she developing her potential.

Results, page 39

Silver in sight: Linford Christie on the way to his second-place medal in Seville

Venables has no inkling of latest rumour

By CLIVE WHITE

TERRY Venables, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, denied any knowledge yesterday, on the eve of the most important game in the club's season, of a reported £7 million bid for Paul Gascoigne from Lazio in Italy.

An agreement for the sale of Tottenham's outstanding player was reported in *Gazzetta dello Sport* to have been reached between Mel Stein and Len Lazarus, the agents for Gascoigne, and Gianmarco Calleri, the Lazio president. But Venables said: "If he is going to Lazio then I don't know anything about it."

Venables has said all along that he would not necessarily be consulted on the sale of Gascoigne, which he said was out of his hands. If the reports that the deal is awaiting only the consent of the player are true, then Tottenham would be on the verge of saving the club financially, if nothing else, even though its debts amount to £20 million.

Nat Solomon, the chairman of Tottenham plc, reiterated at the recent annual meeting of the company that he could not rule out the sale of any player if it would help ease Tottenham's fiancial crisis.

It was hardly the kind of news that Venables needed to hear on the eve of the club's FA Cup quarter-final against Notts County tomorrow. But he is beginning to steel himself against such stories. He was more concerned yesterday about the effect it might be having upon his most valuable player.

"He is a naturally bubbly character, but that doesn't mean he is not upset by it. The important thing is how you deal with it. If you run away from it then you have no chance, but he faces up to it and handles it very well.

"These stories are becoming a way of life. Every day, there seems to be a new club and a new country or a new something or other. I suppose it will continue until it's all cleared up."

The more immediate problem for Venables is the fitness of Gascoigne, who will need a double hernia opeation at the end of the season. He rated the midfield player, whose performances in the two previous rounds of the cup have been brilliant, as having only a 50-50 chance of playing in tomorrow's game. Tottenham have nursed him through the past few weeks, resting him in matches which they considered less important. Tottenham's future could depend upon his presence.

"Every time he plays, he aggravates it further and the recovery time is definitely getting longer. He only does light training through the week, but a lot of players get away with that throughout the season. They're fit enough, anyway, by now.

"He's had treatment all week and we have just got to wait and see. He's a bit better today than yesterday and with another 48 hours' rest then, hopefully, he will be all right."

Gary Lineker, Paul Walsh and Gary Mabbutt, the captain, are also having treatment, for ankle injuries, but all are expected to be fit.

Forest will miss Hodge again

BRIAN Clough, the Nottingham Forest manager, will today attempt to move one step nearer winning the FA Cup, the one big trophy that has eluded him during his 25 years as a manager (Clive White writes).

Not that victory over Norwich City, whom they meet at Carrow Road, is likely to raise optimism particularly. Forest have reached the semi-final round in two of the last three seasons.

Forest will again be without Steve Hodge, their influential England international midfield player, though his absence did not appear to hamper them on Monday night when they beat Southampton 3-1 in a replay.

Should Forest make it to Wembley, it could be by the most roundabout route on record. It has taken them seven matches and four postponements so far to progress through just three rounds. There is every indication that today's tie could go to a replay, too.

Norwich will be anxious to make amends for the 6-2 defeat they suffered on their own ground at the hands of Forest in January. Ian Crook, who has missed the last two games with a hamstring injury, should return for Norwich, but there is unlikely to be a place for Ian Butterworth, the former Forest player, who is fit again after missing five games.

Perry Groves, Andy Linighan and Kevin Campbell are all fit after injury and have been included in the Arsenal squad for today's only other quarter-final tie against Cambridge United at Highbury. Anders Limpar has already been ruled out by an ankle injury.

☐ Michel der Zakarian, the Montpellier defender who was injured during the European Cup Winners Cup quarter-final against Manchester United at Old Trafford on Wednesday night, underwent an operation on damaged knee ligaments on Friday.

Der Zakarian is expected to be out of action for three to six weeks, ruling him out of the return leg with United in France.

Welsh pool resources

By GERALD DAVIES

LEADING Welsh players could earn, collectively, a six-figure sum, according to the commercial agents appointed yesterday by the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) to act in the interests of the national squad. The union announced the appointment of First Artist Corporation as its sole agent.

"We have acted within the letter and spirit of the IRFB's regulations," Jonathan Price, the WRU commercial executive, said. "Monies earned by our agents on behalf of the players will be paid into a trust fund set up by our union."

The formula for the distribution of the money is similar to that promoted in Scotland, which is based on a points system according to appearances, not only in the international jersey but also on the time spent in the squad.

The Welsh squad will be marketed as an entity that will benefit the whole squad and not just those players with a high profile.

Players can opt out if they wish and pursue their own inclinations, provided they do not conflict with the interests of the whole, but they will be asked to enter into a contractual agreement with the WRU, which will include guidelines on media activity attendance and behaviour at official functions. Players will be sent on media training courses to learn how to perform, for instance, on television.

"All is not wrong with Welsh rugby," John Smith, director of First Artist, said. "There were 10,000 spectators at the Pontypridd and Llanelli match on Tuesday evening."

Smith's company is also agent to the England football and cricket teams.

☐ In New Zealand a new company, All Black Promotions Limited, has been established to market players, individually and as a team. The directors include two representatives of the New Zealand Rugby Union, two players and two businessmen with rugby interests. It will have a full-time manager and all members of the team will be shareholders for an initial period of 12 months.

S Africa to seek official status

From RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH AFRICA is to demand official status at the International Cricket Council (ICC) meeting at Lord's in July to put its case for an immediate end to its isolation from the Test arena. Dr Ali Bacher, managing director of the South African Cricket Union (SACU), said in Johannesburg yesterday that letters will be sent to the ICC before the end of this month to request the hearing.

Bacher said that a new controlling body of cricket in South Africa, formed by a merger between the predominantly white SACU and the non-white South African Cricket Board, would be formed "by the end of June at the latest". Bacher was reacting to comments in *The Times* by Clyde Walcott, president of the West Indies Board of Control, who said he would have no objection to a merged South African authority addressing the ICC informally.

It marked a distinct shift in attitude to the South African issue by West Indies. Six years ago, together with England, West Indies were responsible for the introduction of automatic Test suspension for any player visiting South Africa to play or coach.

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Soviet ballerina meets locks from hell

SIMON BARNES ON SATURDAY

This, being as ever the column on the cutting edge of sport, brings you more spectacular and utterly exclusive news from the event of the year. This is, of course, the women's rugby World Cup, which has finally closed its entry with 12 nations agreeing to take part. The French confirmed their participation at the last possible second, later even than the Soviet Union. There are eight Soviet women's rugby clubs; I hear that their hooker is a former ballet dancer.

I wonder how she will face up to pressure from "the locks from hell". These are Tara Flanagan and Tam Breckenridge, of the United States. Both play for Belmont Shore club in California and both played basketball for UCLA. Both are more than six foot tall, and both are enthusiastic body-builders. Oh, and they work out at the same gym as Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Record stand

Here is the most shocking news you will read this week – the new stand at Lord's is *finished*. Really and truly, and only ten months late. There were problems with "finding the right mix of concrete", I am told, and the high winds made things worse. The question that remains is, who will pay for loses incurred by the delay?

The MCC secretary, Lt-Col John Stephenson, said: "No one knows how much the additional work will cost. I am not sure if the MCC is insured for it." The extent of the responsibility of contractor and sub-contractor is also unclear: there is talk of legal action. One certainty is that the club can look forward to yet another stormy AGM in May.

The Test and County Cricket Board, meanwhile, is still upset about losing revenue from the traditional Lord's big days, because the problems with the stand reduced ground capacity from 27,000 to 18,000, and expect to recoup from the MCC "in time". The Compton and Edrich stand will be officially named in a ceremony on May 27.

☐ *The Cheltenham festival looms towards us like a runaway lorry next week, so it was hardly surprising to find my racing snout on the telephone. "Don't look past the grey horse in the Gold Cup," he said. "Though if you fancy a sporting each-way bet, try Party Politics." He recommends Nomadic Way for the Champion Hurdle, and Local Whisper for the Sun Alliance Chase on Wednesday. "Bet of the meeting, that one."*

A likely story

There is magic in the air in northwest Surrey. Last sumer, six events at the district athletics championship – the 100, 200, 800 and 1,500 metres, and the long jump and high jump – all fell to Helen, Elizabeth and Susie Williams, of Heathside School, Weybridge – a set of identical triplets. They followed this dizzy triumph by taking first, second and third in the recent district cross-country championships.

Meanwhile, Spelthorne College, Ashford, have, for the first time, reached the final of the national basketball championship. They play Sandon, Essex, in the first leg of the final next Thursday. Spelthorne's attack is spearheaded by Nathalie and Sarah Gibson, a pair of identical twins. And when a tactical substitution is required, off go Nathalie and Sarah, and on come Berenice and Jocelyn King – yet another pair of identical twins.

☐ *As the financial woes of English racing grow ever more acute, in the United States, Pat Day has become the sixth jockey in history whose mounts have won more than $100 million. He passed this astronomical figure when riding Wild Sierra into second place last week. The other five jocks are Bill Shoemaker, Laffit Pincay Jr, Angel Cordero Jr, Jorge Velázquez and Chris McCarron.*

Sumo shock

Sumo wrestling has been rocked by scandal. The once-revered Kotonishiki, seen everywhere as a grand champion in the making, is now the subject of such headlines as "Incurable Moron". The scandal is, naturally, all about sex: Kotonishiki has abandoned his pregnant wife, whom he married secretly, for a 19-year-old student, whom he has promised to marry. This sort of stuff may be expected in English football, but sumo is seen as a repository of national virtues as well as sport. Some observers put it all down to the passing of the age of the geisha, who were the traditional companions of sumo wrestlers. One insider told *Bunshun* magazine: "Things like this happen because the number of geisha houses has dropped dramatically. The boys have nowhere to play any more, and have to resort to tangling with ordinary, innocent girls."

Worldly wise

Mike Reid retired as a defensive end for the Cincinnati Bengals in 1975, saying he was "disenchanted with the system and pro football in general". He has just made No. 1 in America's country music charts with his first album. Asked to comment on the remarks he made on leaving pro football, he told *Sports Illustrated* magazine: "Athletes in their twenties haven't had their Copernican revolution yet. They still think the world revolves around them."

Cold logic

Congratulations to Joona Partanen, aged 18, and winner of one million Finnish marks (about £140,000) for beating 5,000 other contestants to win a nine-day ice-fishing contest in Kerimaki, in eastern Finland. What's your secret, Joona? "You just drill the hole, put the bait on and drop the line."

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